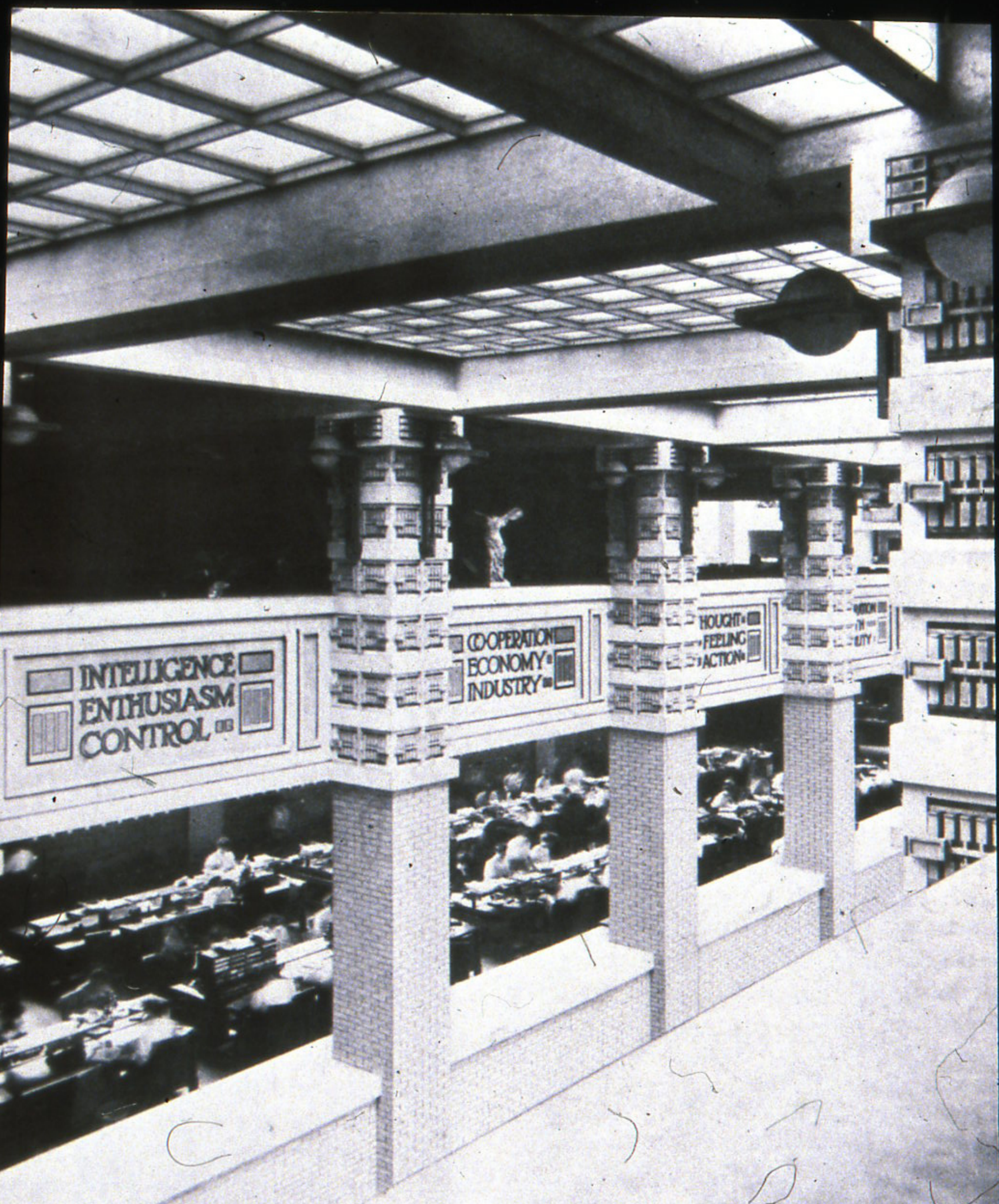
5. Larkin factory shipping office, E and F buildings, 1901. (*The Larkin Idea,* May–November 1901, p. 40)

6 Larkin factory In-Mail Department, E and F buildings, 1901. (*The Larkin Idea,* May–November 1901, p. 37)

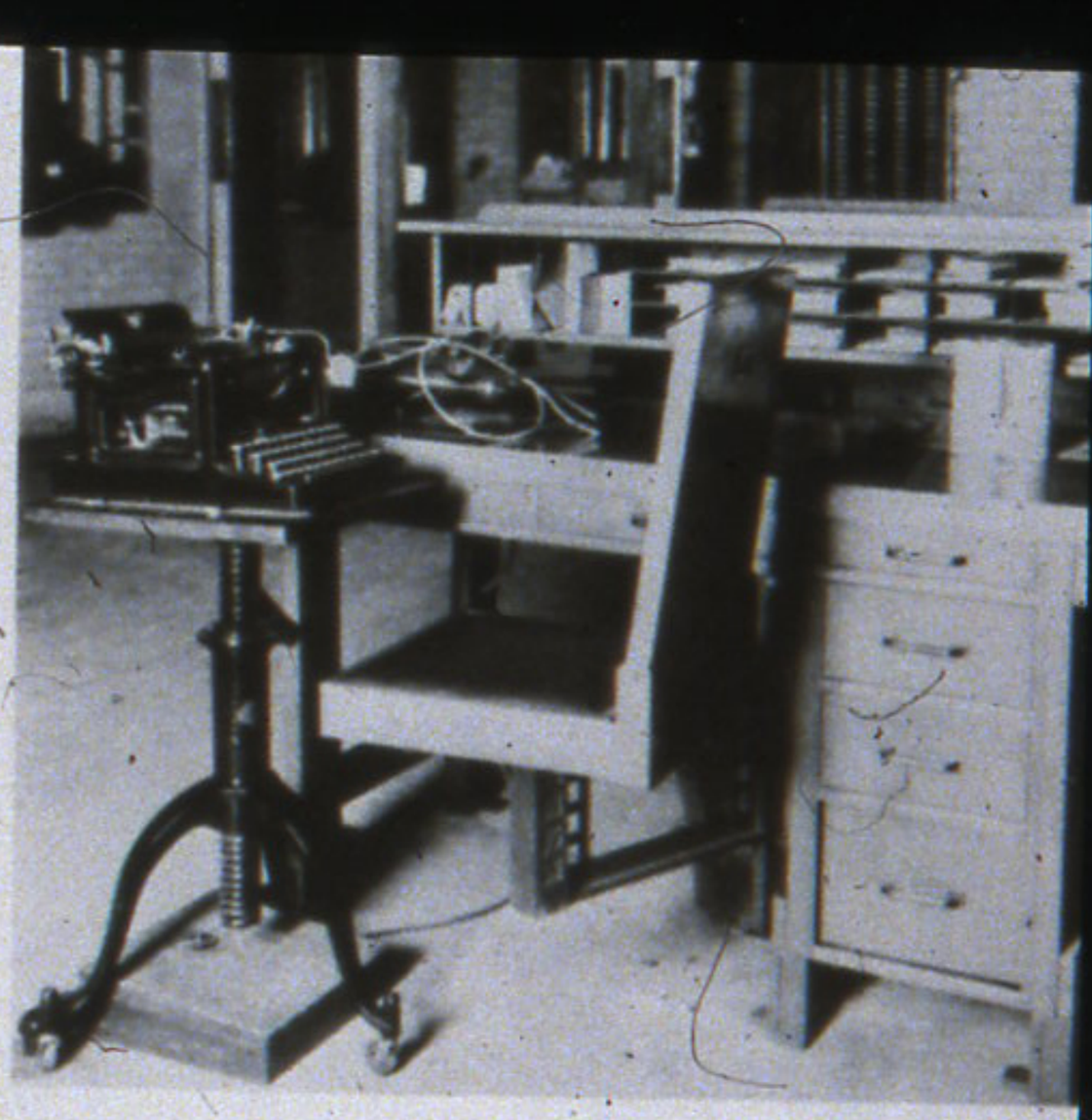

HONEST LABOR
NEEDS NO MASTER
SIMPLE JUSTICE
NEEDS NO SLAVES


INTELLIGENCE
ENTHUSIASM
CONTROL
CO-OPERATION
ECONOMY
INDUSTRY
HOUGHT
FEELING
ACTION

60 Metal desk with magnesite panels. (Courtesy The Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation)

in metal, an additional fireproofing measure. Three different types of desks and four different types of chairs, as well as filing cabinets and lighting fixtures, were fabricated to Wright's designs by the Van Dorn Iron Works of Cleveland, Ohio.[12] The rectangular chairs and desks were made of folded and punched sheet steel riveted somewhat like the framing of a building. The freestanding office chairs with cast-iron bases (see Fig. 49) were exceptionally heavy.[13] Wright was proud of the easy cleaning made possible by his design for folding chairs that cantilevered from most metal desks (Figs. 61, 62), but in use these chairs allowed only a limited arc of movement and may have been uncomfortable over the course of a full workday. Wright's three-legged office chair was so unstable that it became known as the "suicide chair" among office personnel. These problems led to a minor insurrection in 1913 when some department heads threatened to import more comfortable wooden chairs on their own.[14] The Larkin executives were able to quell this uprising, but it indicates that Wright considered appearance before comfort in his furniture design.

Wright promised Darwin Martin that the new ad-

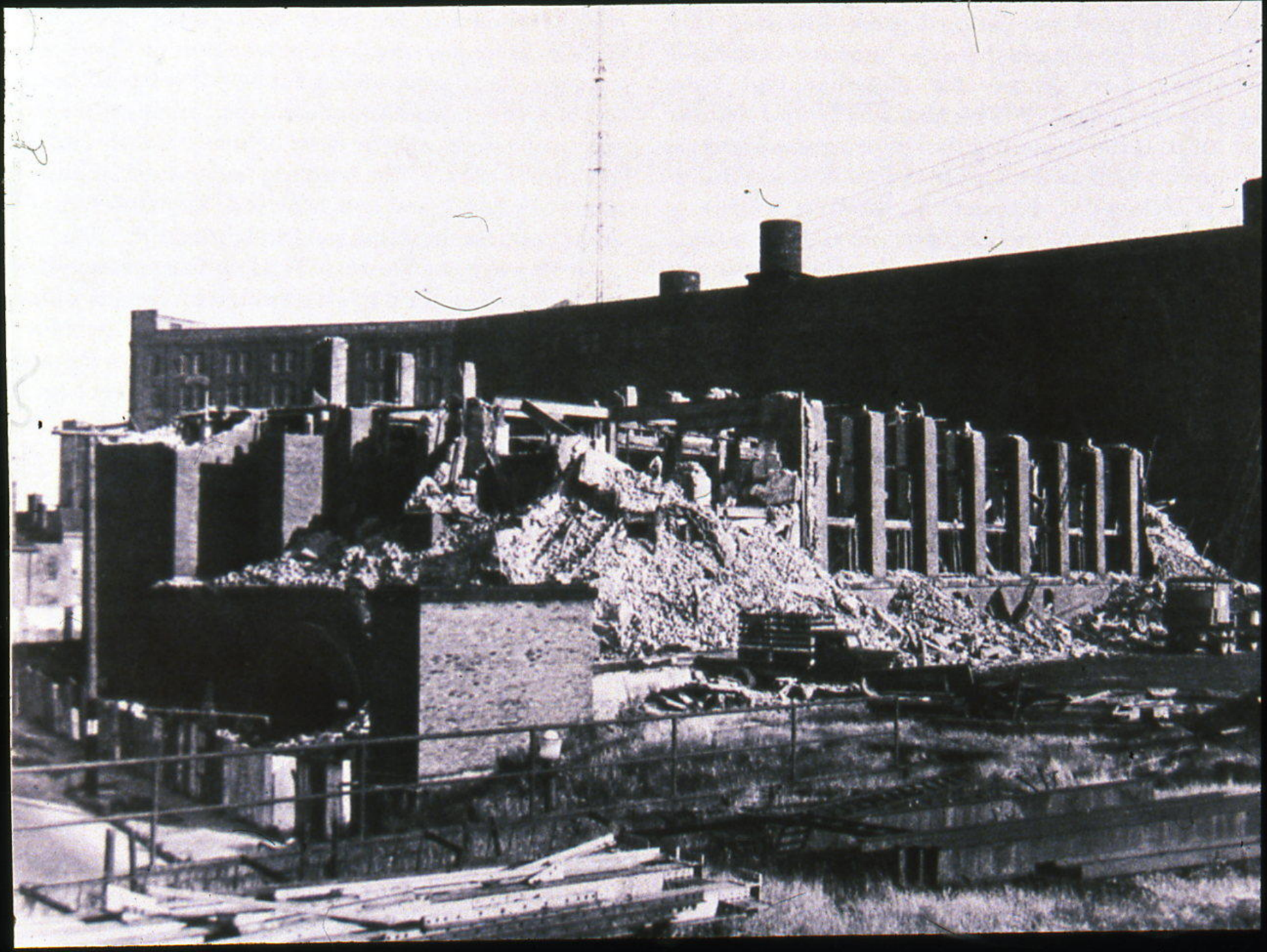


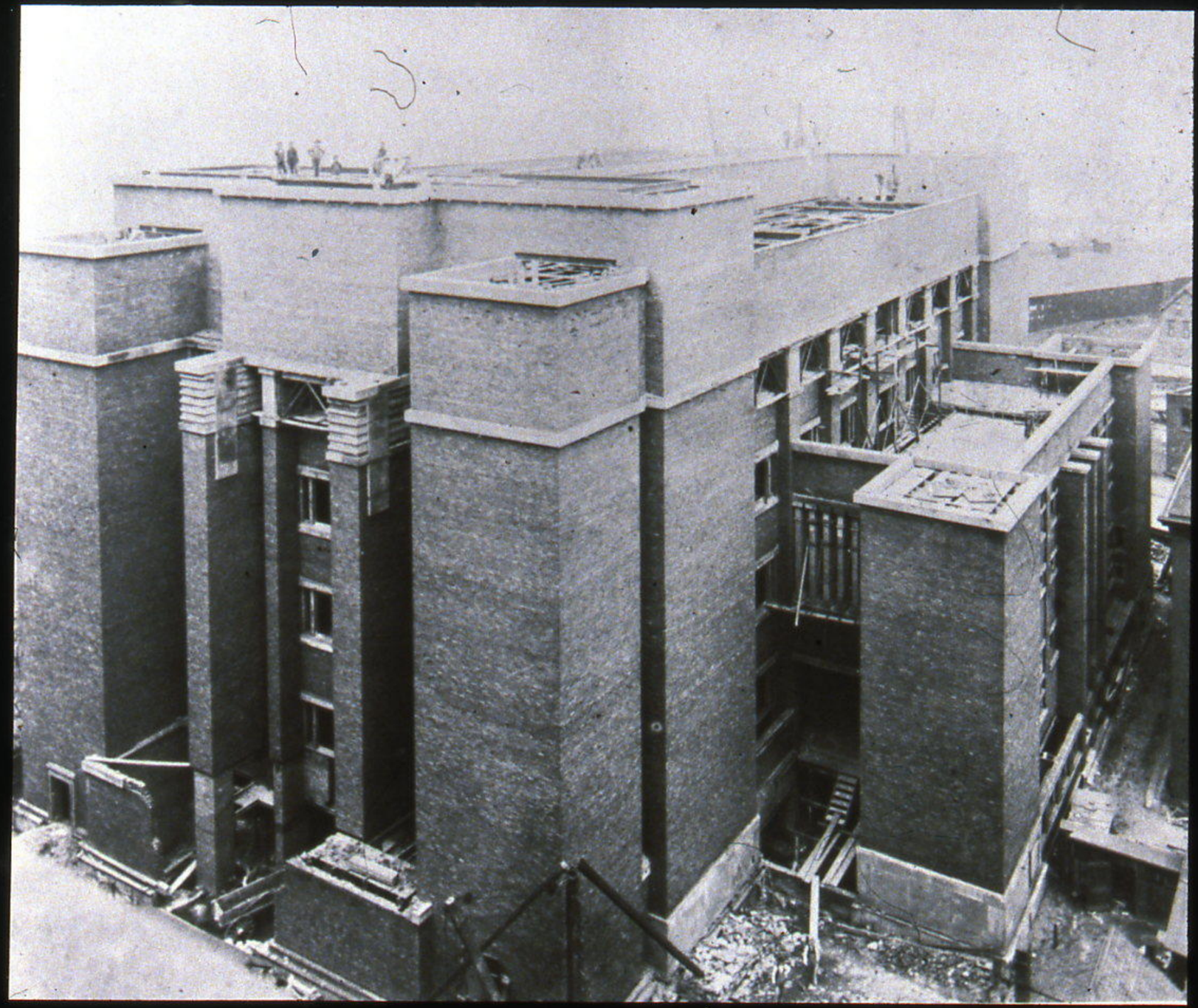
61 Metal desk with attached chair in open position.

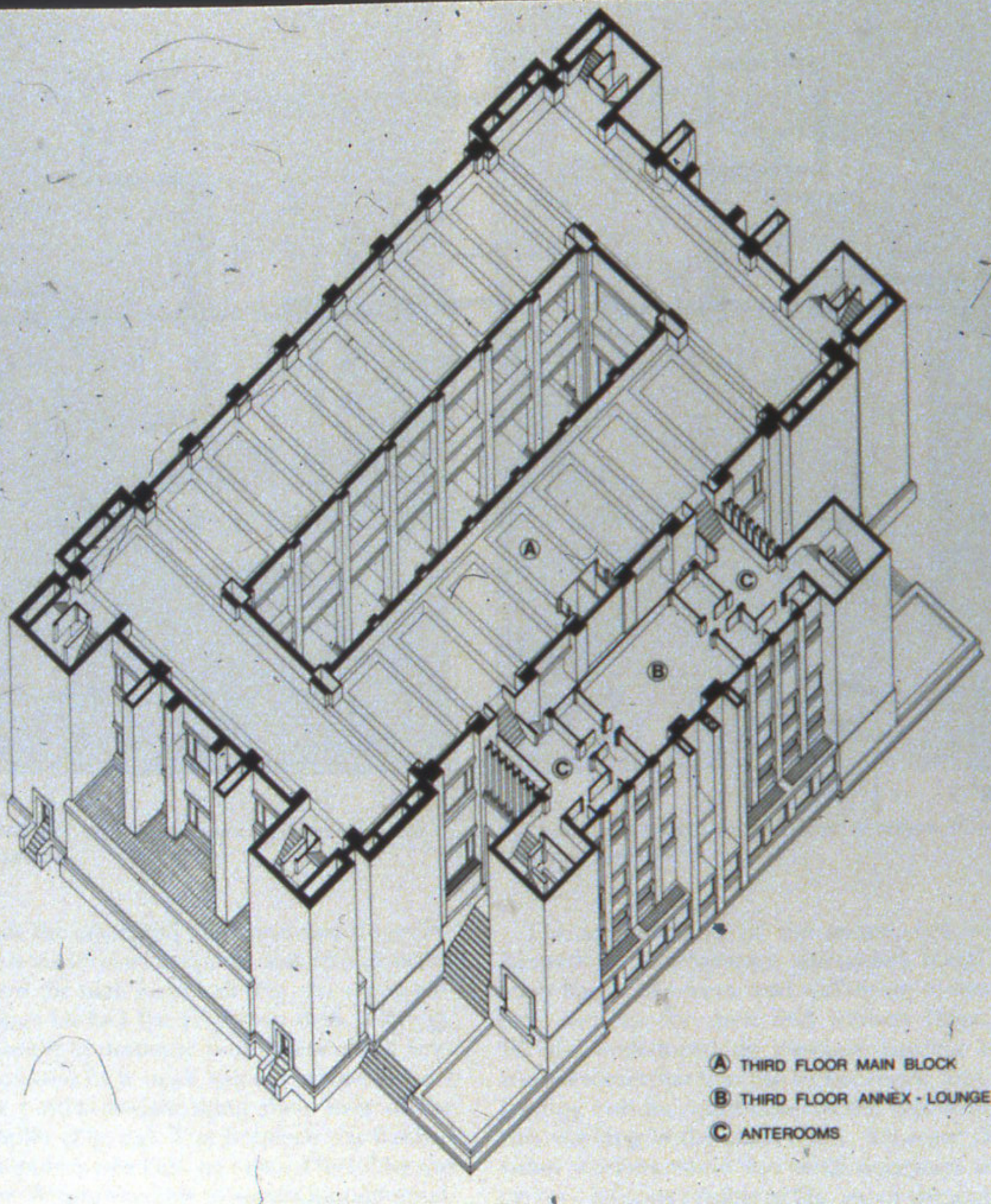
Metal desk with attached chair folded.

41 The In-Mail Department, third floor. (Courtesy The Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation)

ARKIN CO.



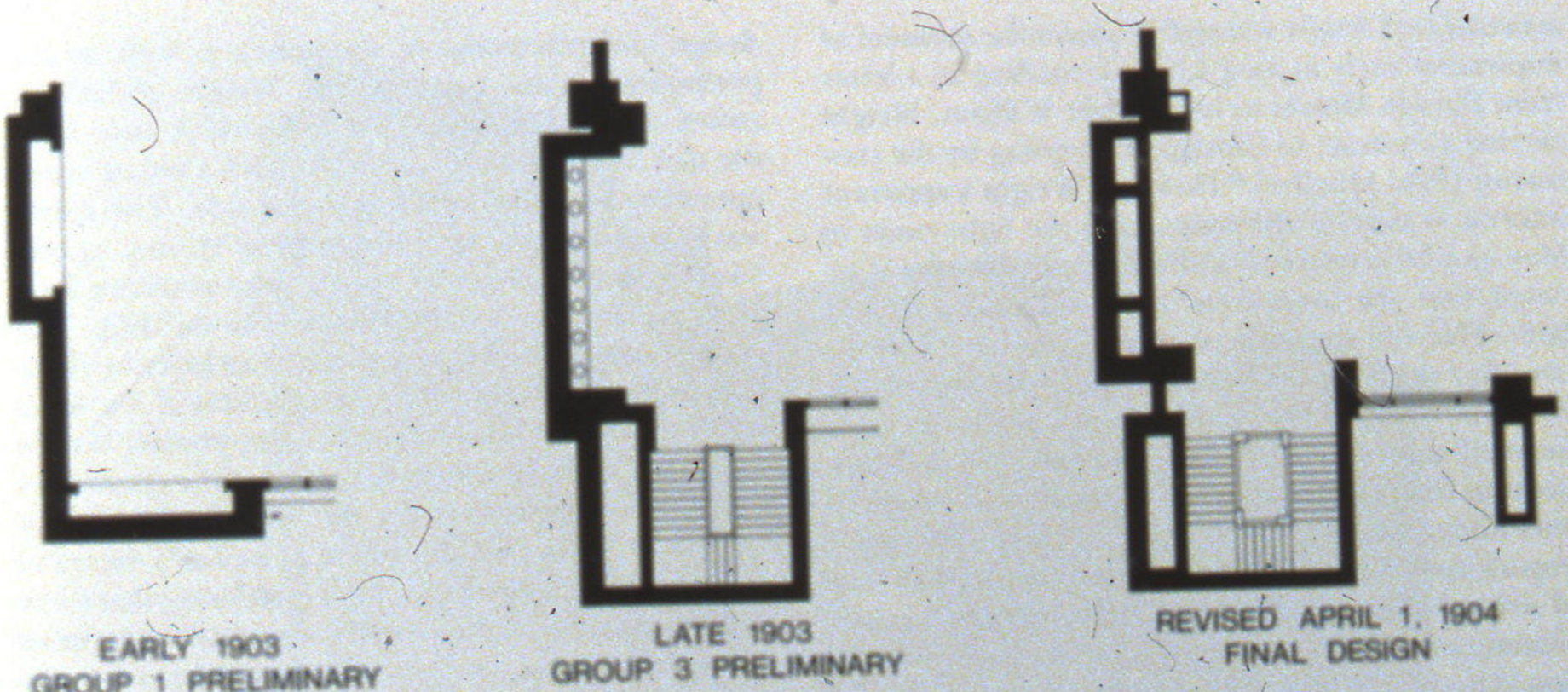




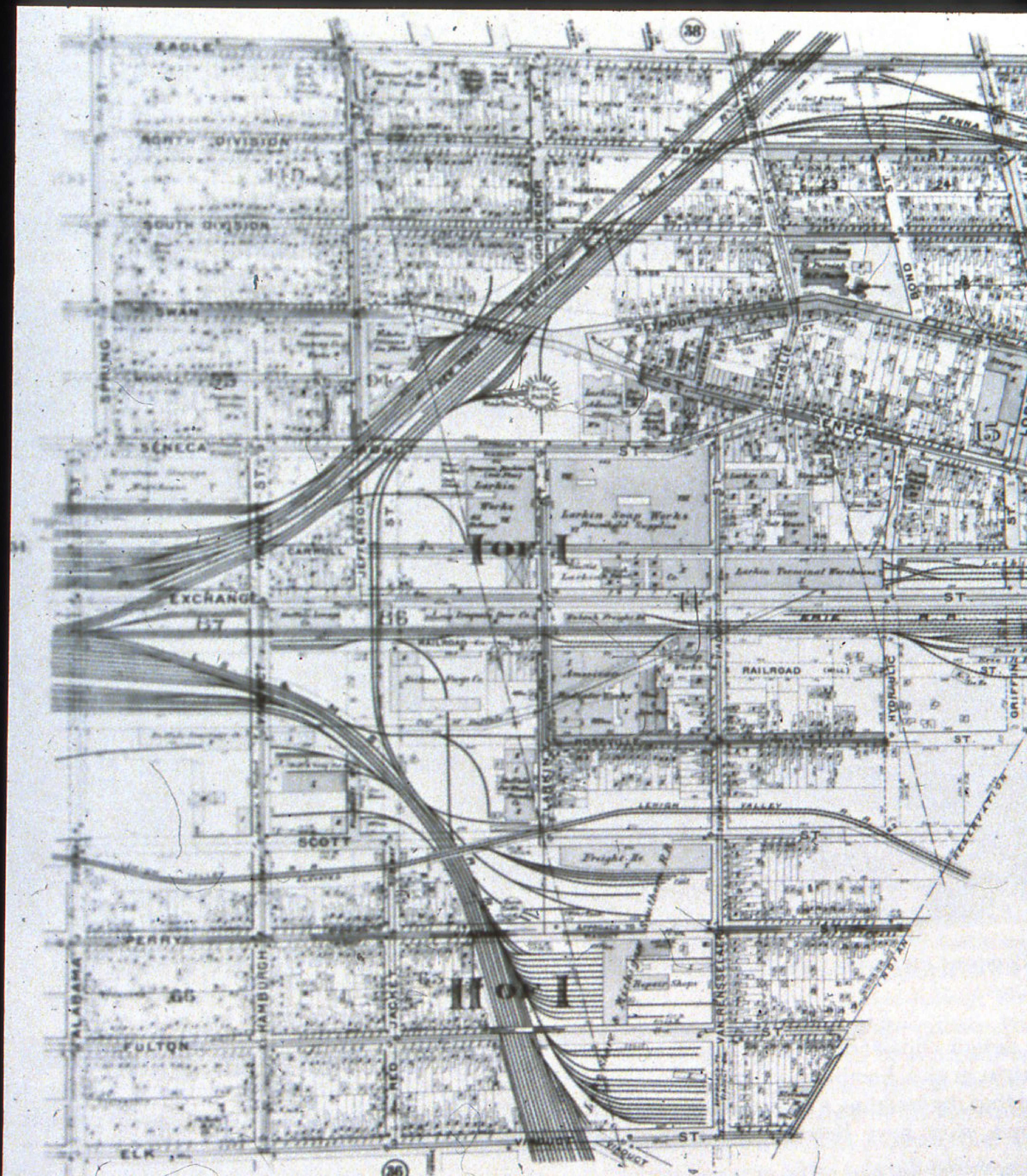
Ⓐ THIRD FLOOR MAIN BLOCK

Ⓑ THIRD FLOOR ANNEX - LOUNGE

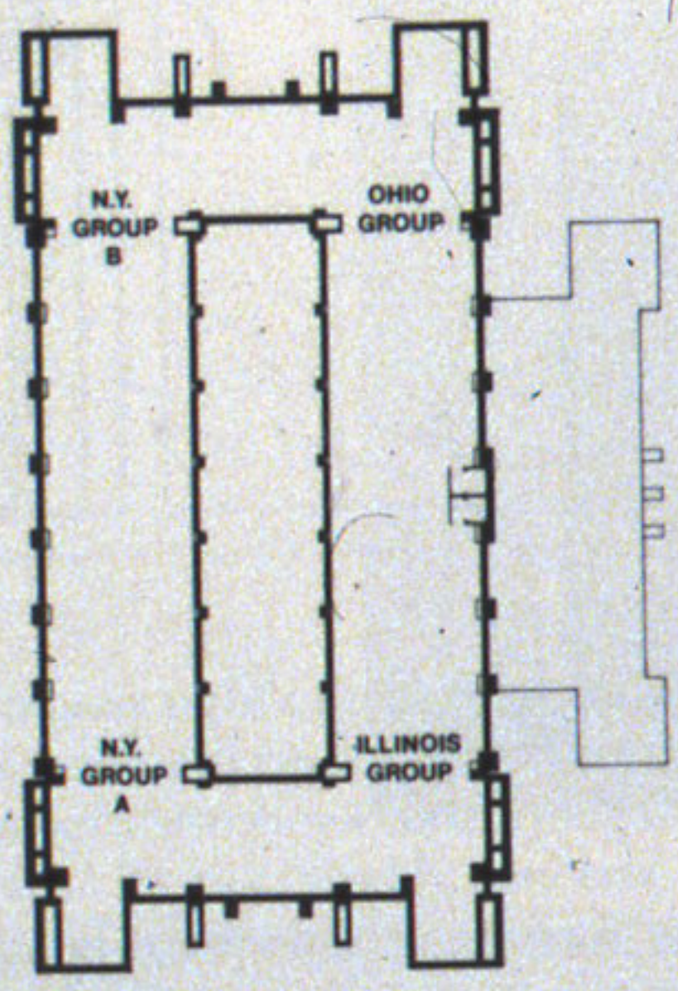
Ⓒ ANTEROOMS



21 Evolution of corners of the Larkin Building from early 1903 to April 1, 1904. (Drawn by James Cahill)

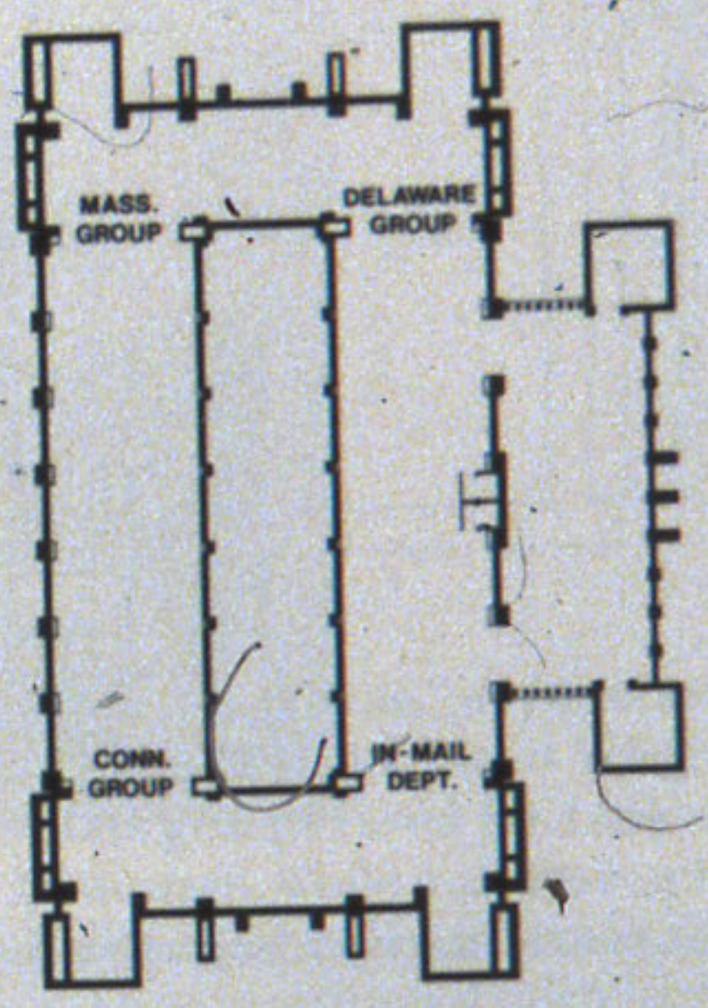


38
EAGLE
NORTH DIVISION
SOUTH DIVISION
SWAN
SPRING
GROSVENOR
PENNA
23
24
BOND
SEYMOUR
EMSLIE
SENECA
LORD
15
ST
Larkin Works
Larkin Soap Works
I of I
CARROLL
JEFFERSON
EXCHANGE
67
86
Larkin Terminal Warehouse
ERIE R.R.
RAILROAD
HYDRAULIC
GRIFFIN
LEHIGH VALLEY
RESERVATION
SCOTT
Freight Ho
PERRY
ALABAMA
66
HAMBURGH
II of I
Repair Shops
VAN RENSSELAER
INDIAN
FULTON
ELK
VIADUCT
36



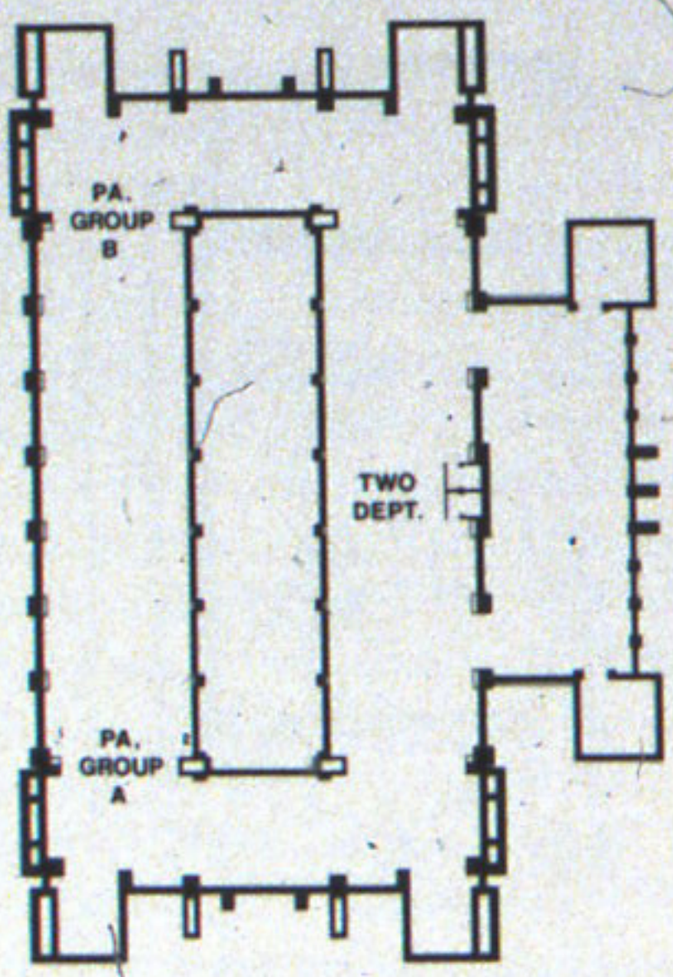
FOURTH FLOOR

37 Fourth-floor schematic plan of mail room setting arranged by States. (Drawn by James Cahill)

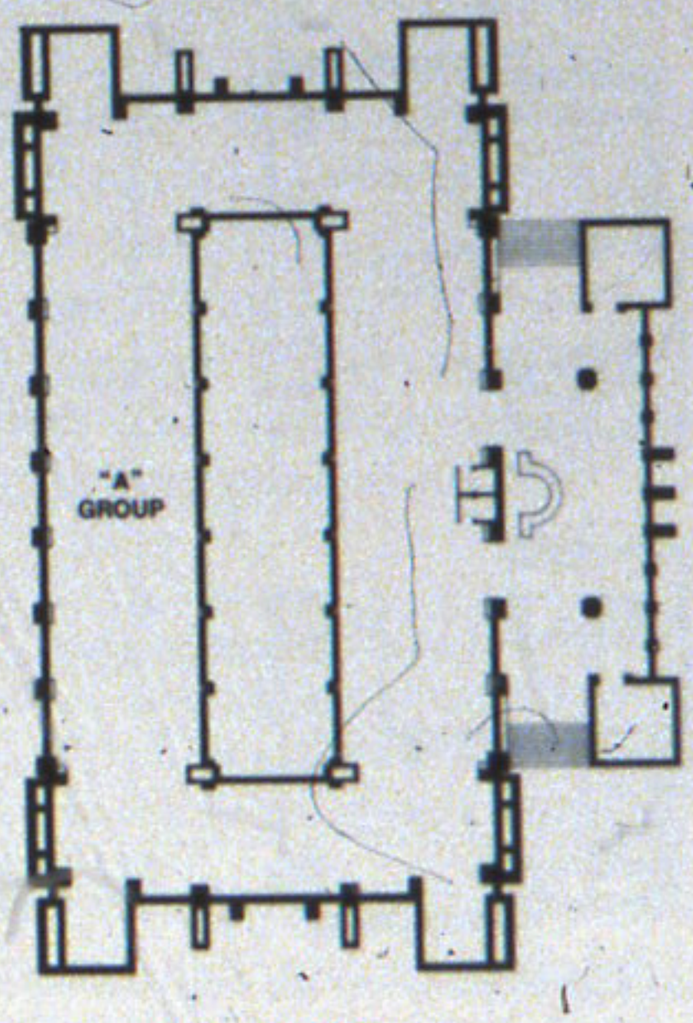


THIRD FLOOR

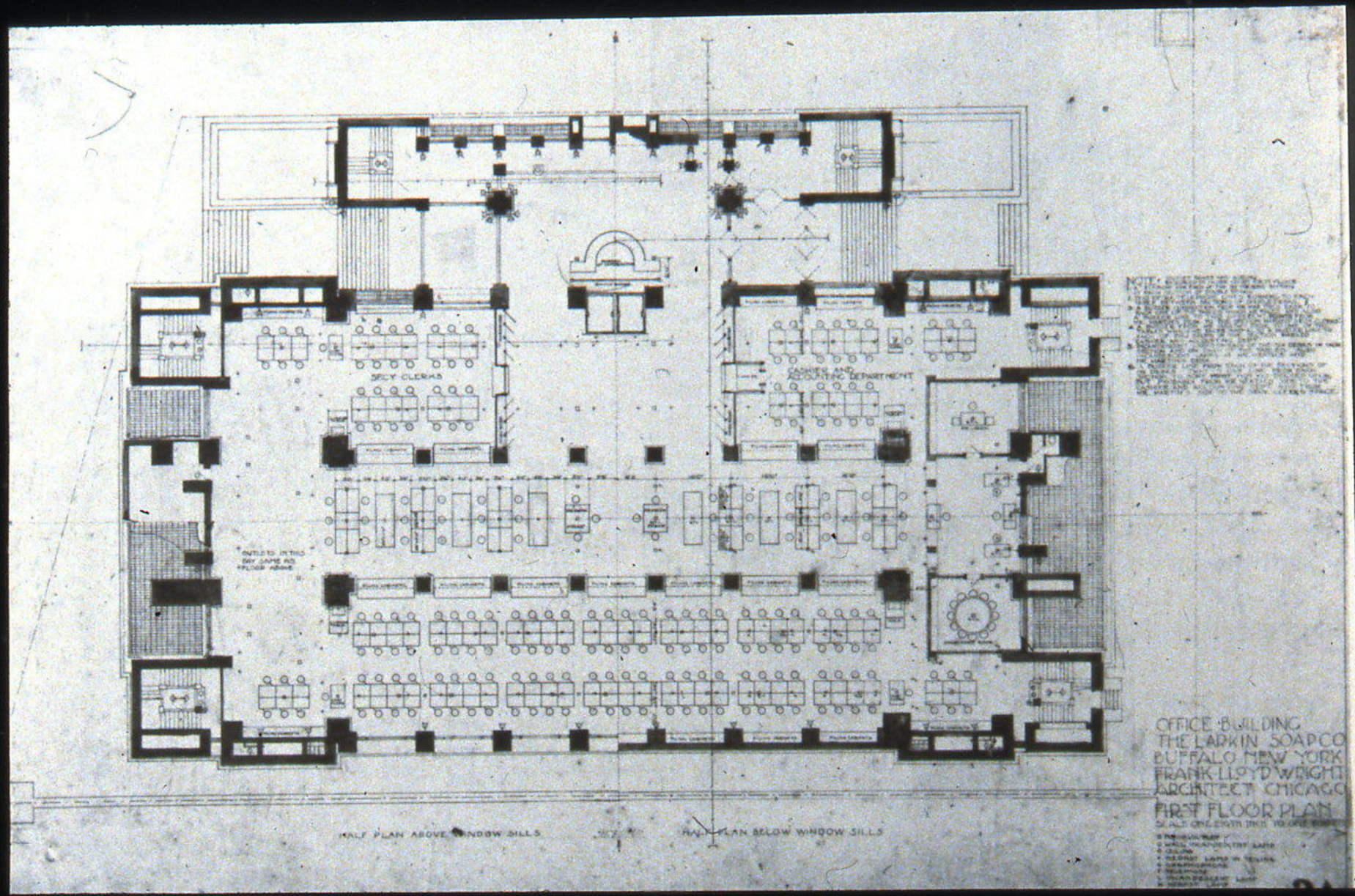
38 Third-floor schematic plan showing location of In-Mail Department and mail-order state groups. (Drawn by James Cahill)



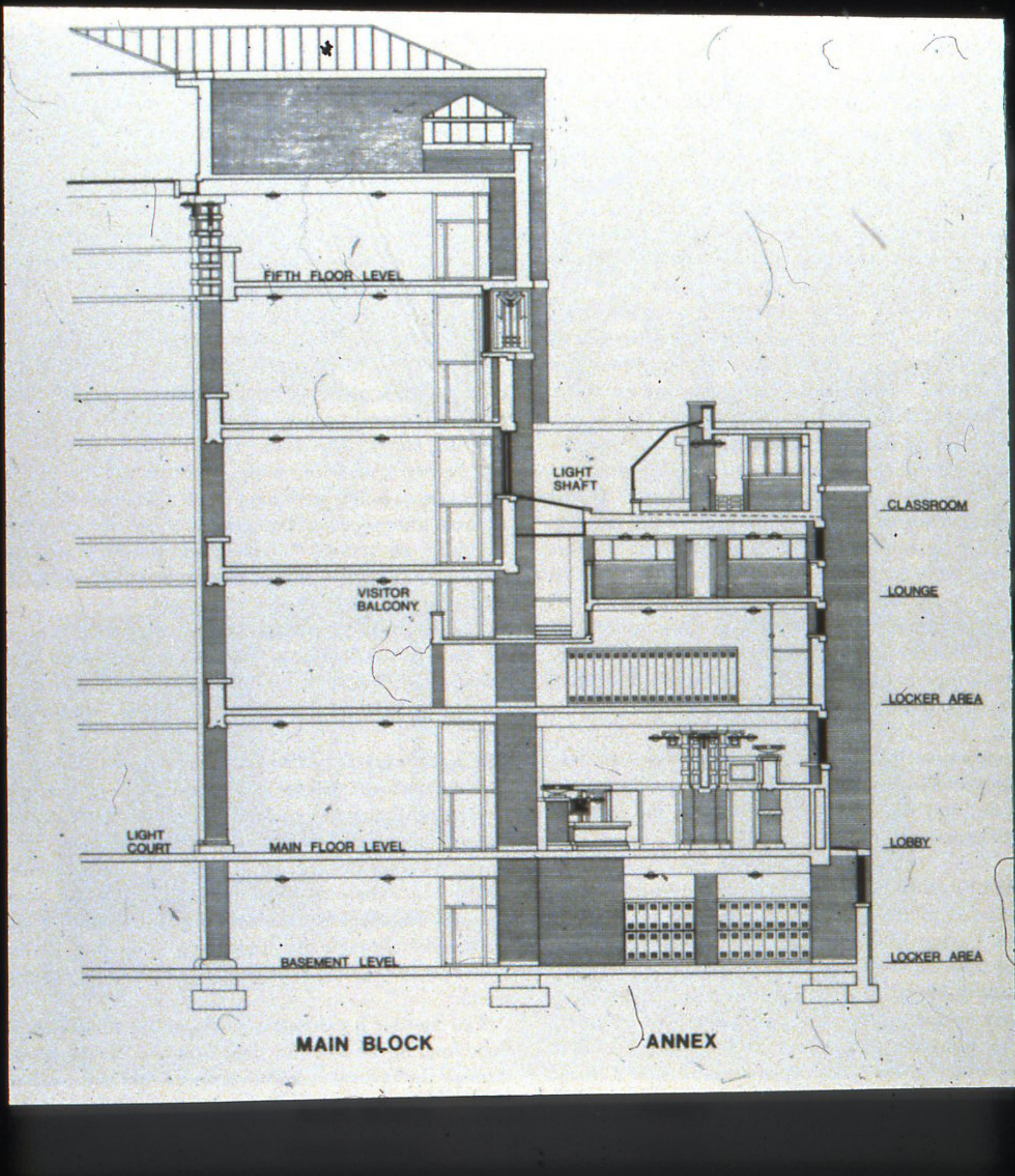
SECOND FLOOR

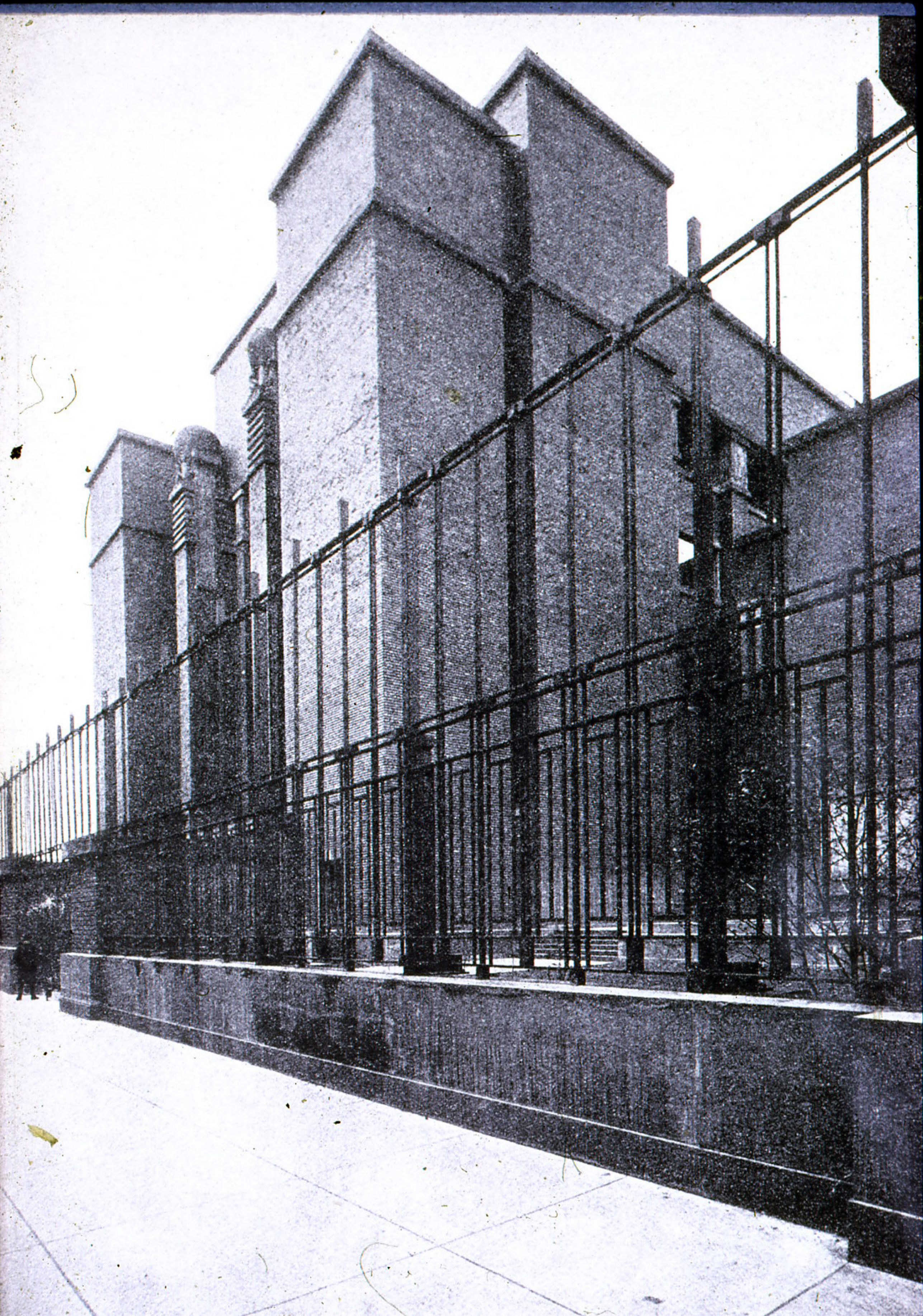


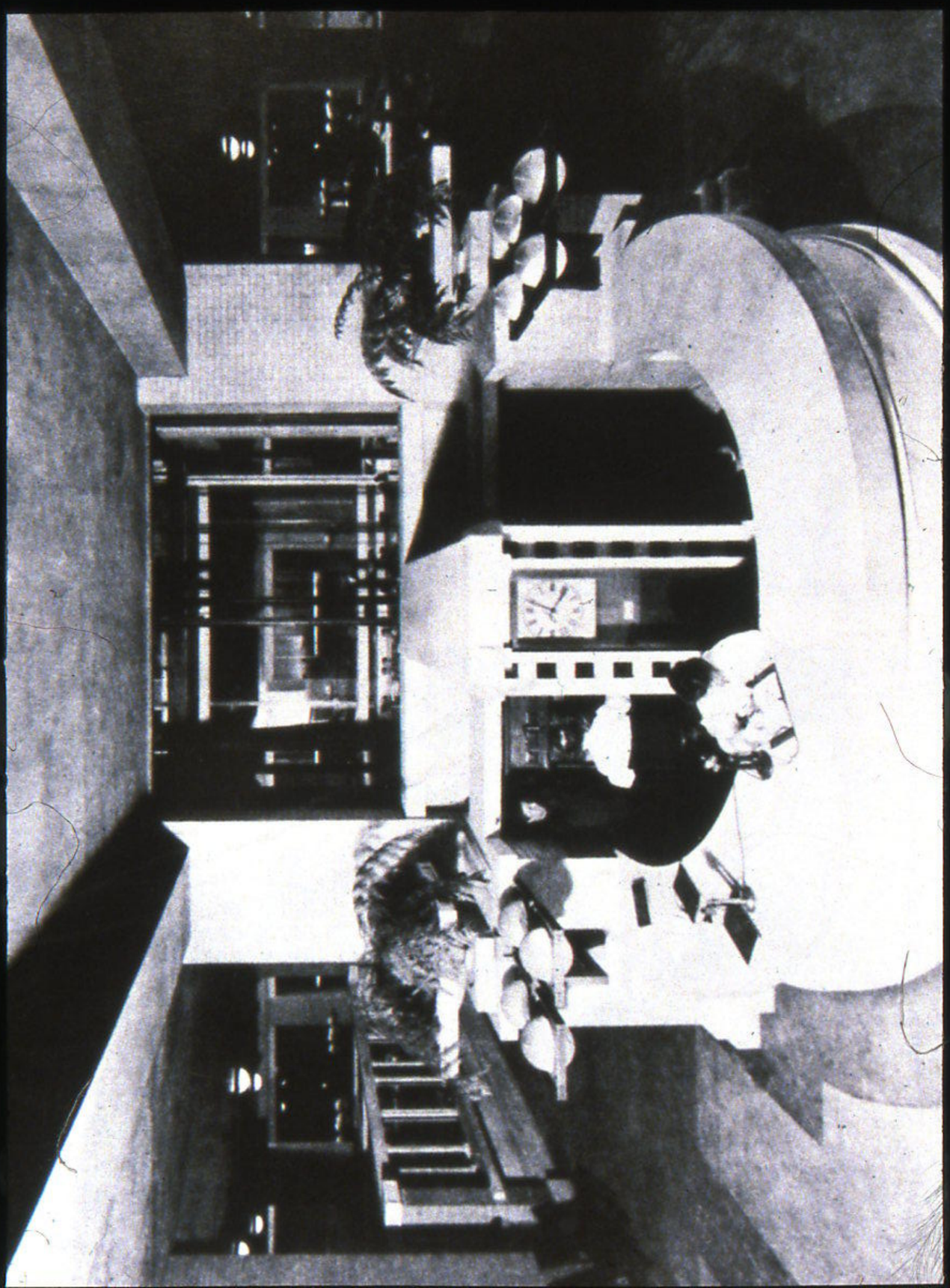
MAIN FLOOR



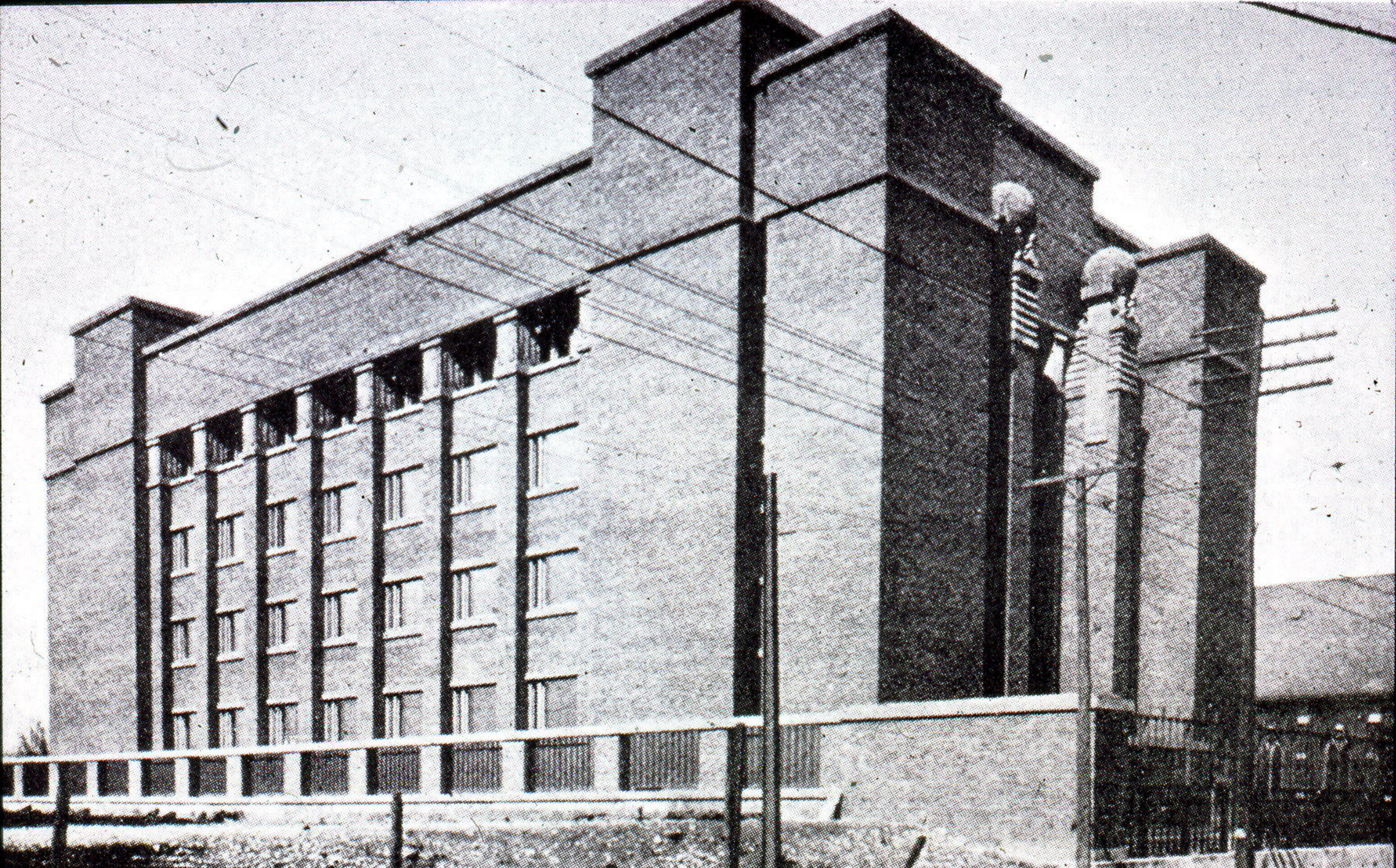
OFFICE BUILDING
THE LARKIN SOAP CO
BUFFALO NEW YORK
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT
ARCHITECT CHICAGO
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

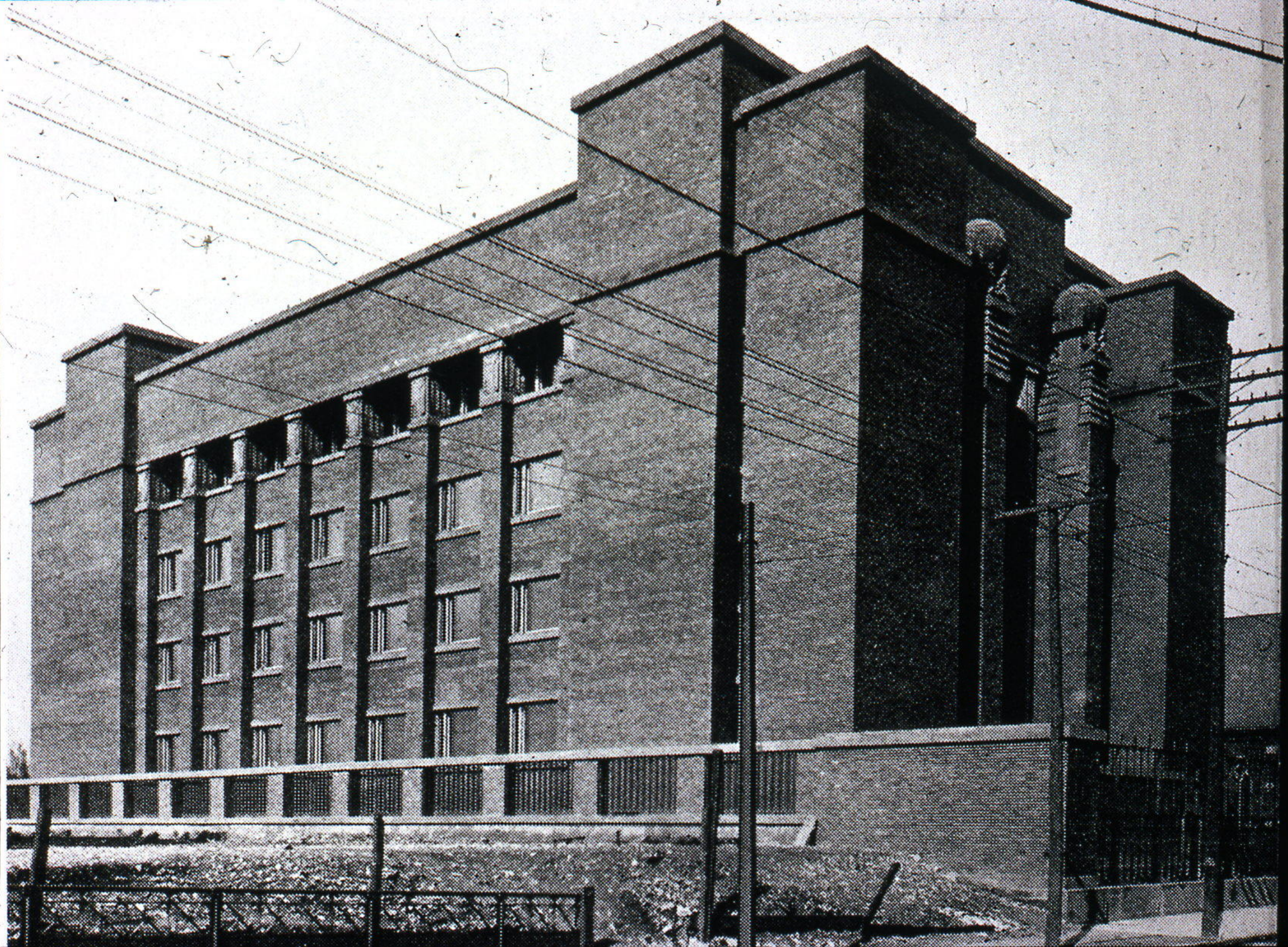

FIFTH FLOOR LEVEL
LIGHT SHAFT
CLASSROOM
VISITOR BALCONY
LOUNGE
LOCKER AREA
LIGHT COURT
MAIN FLOOR LEVEL
LOBBY
BASEMENT LEVEL
LOCKER AREA
MAIN BLOCK
ANNEX

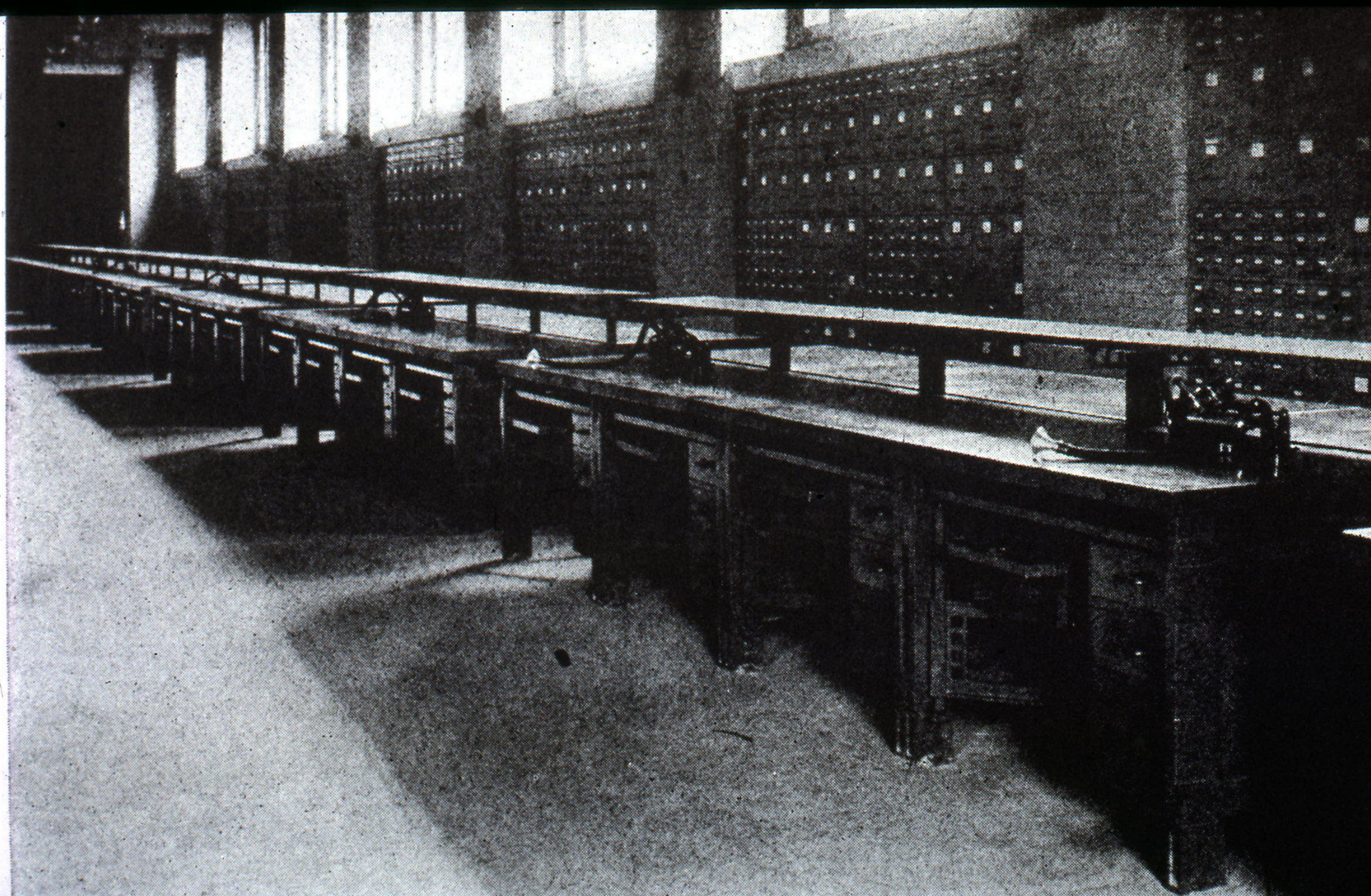


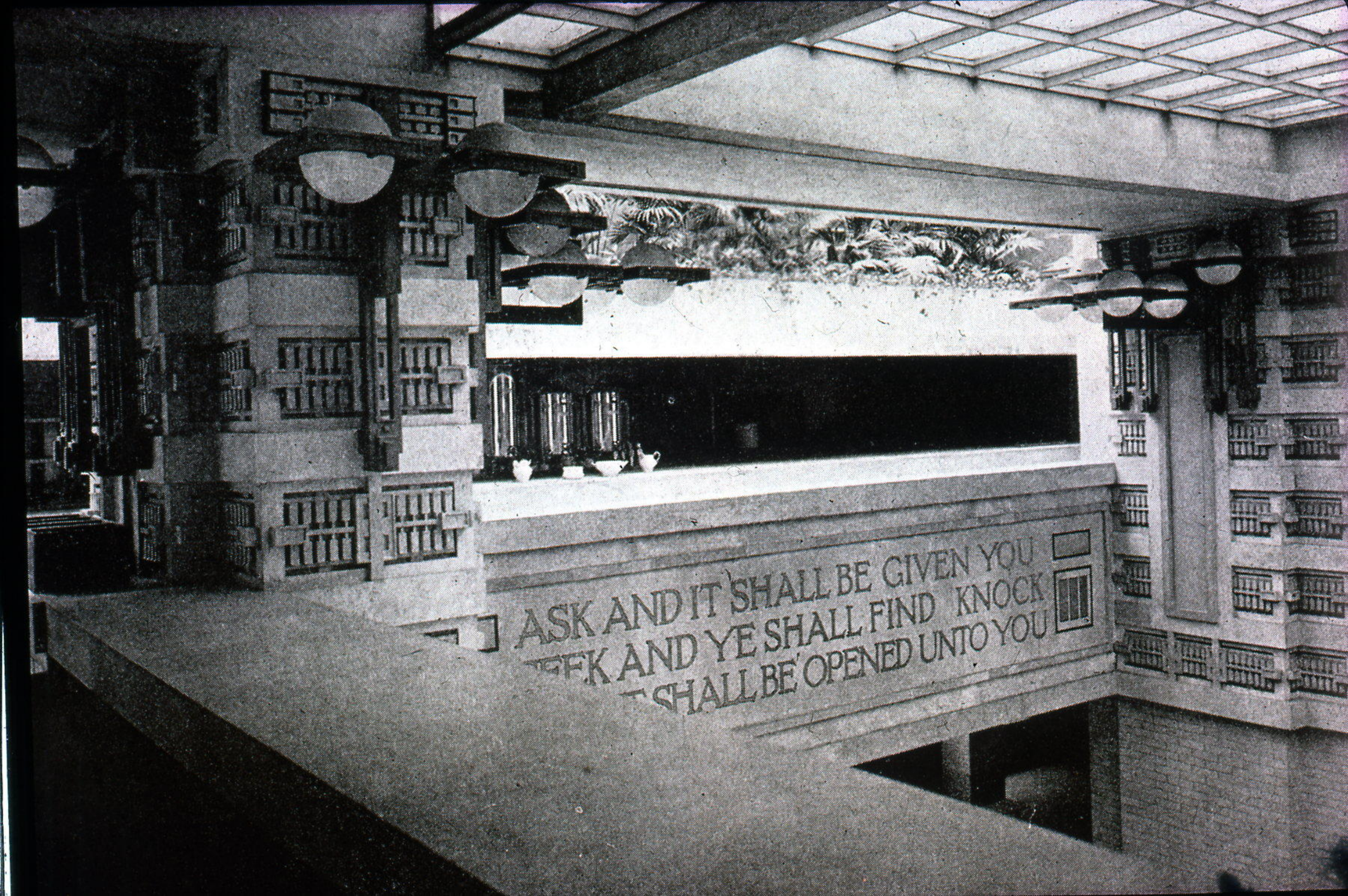


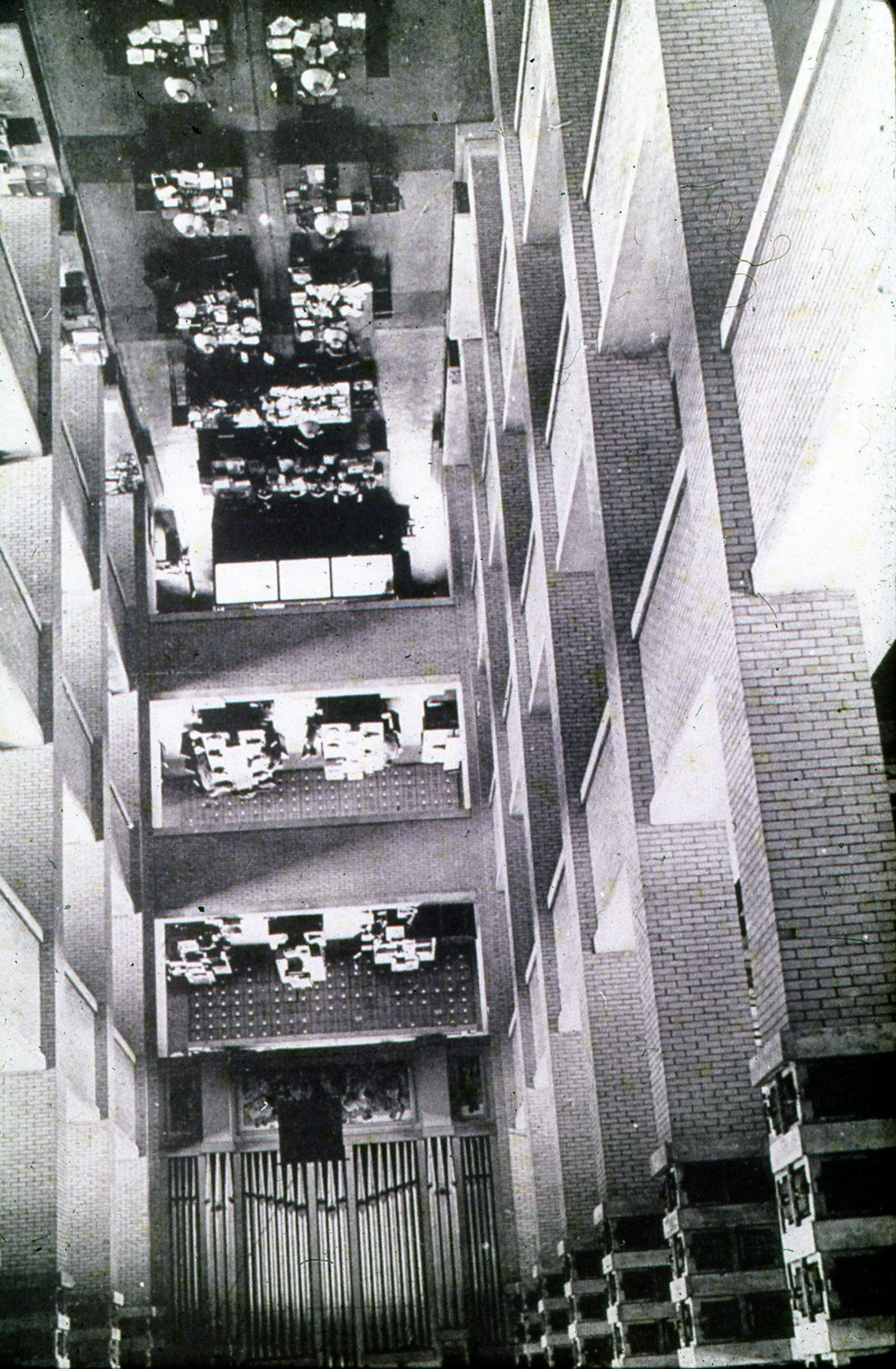

ARKIN CO

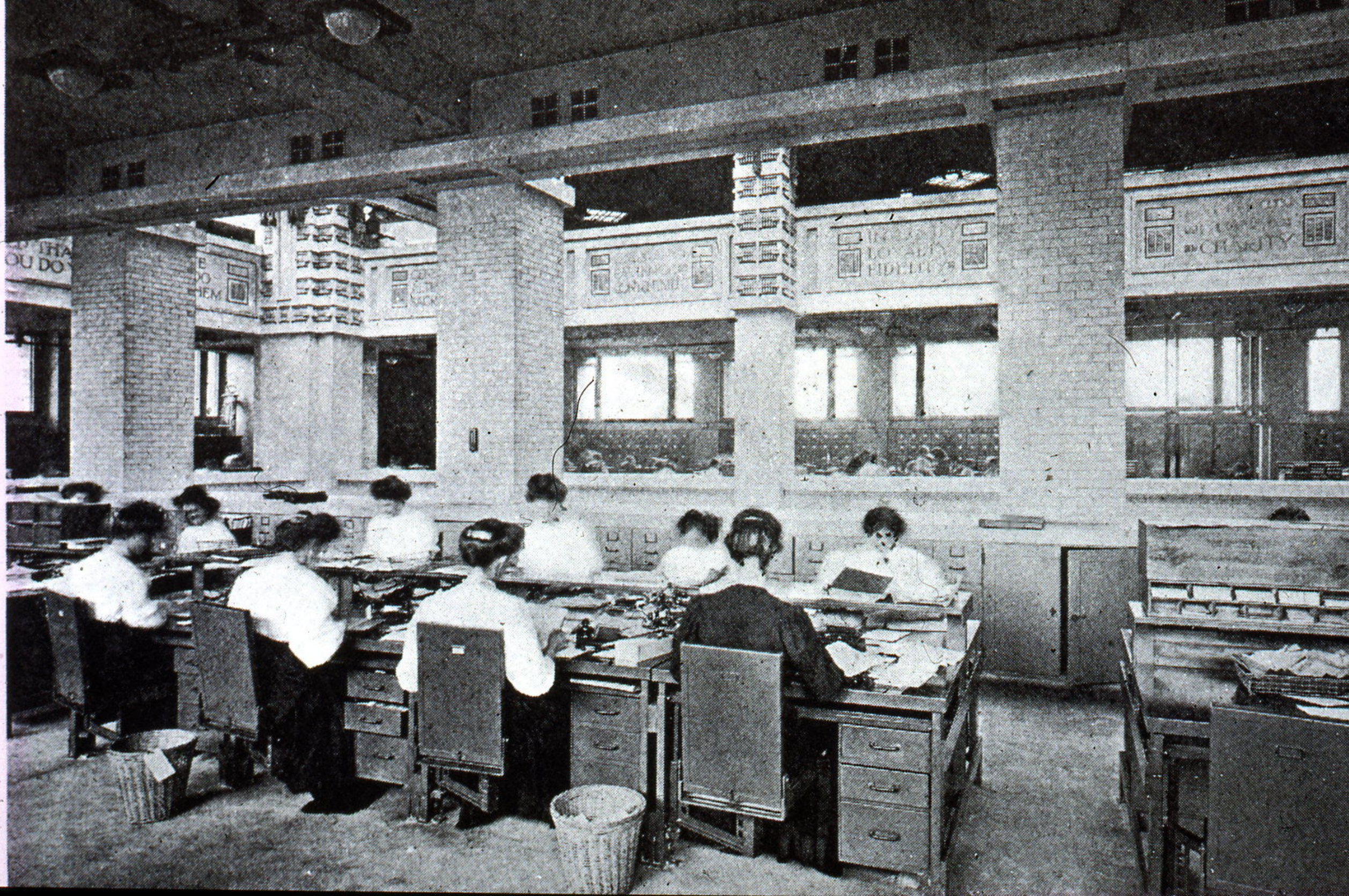




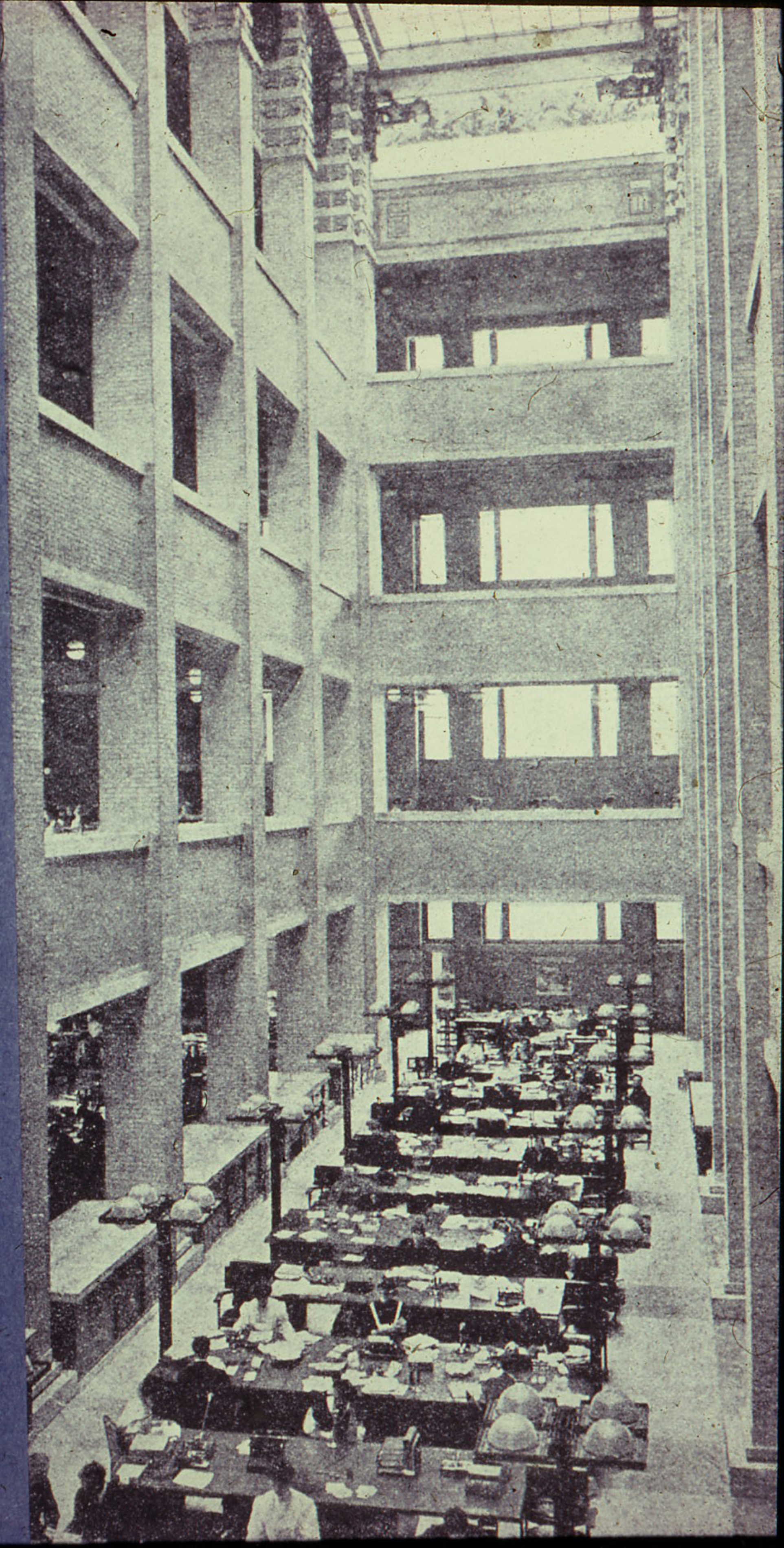



ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU
SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU



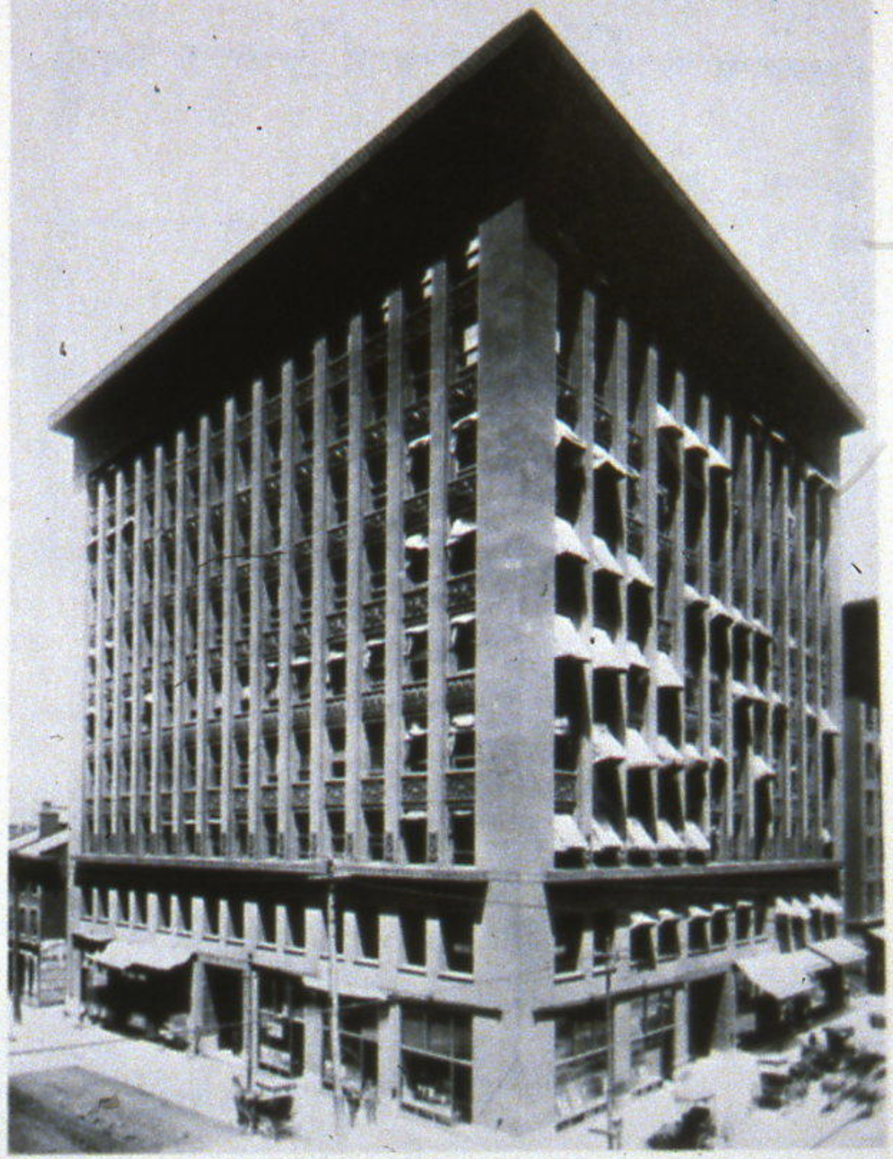



ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN YOU
SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND KNOCK



86 The Larkin complex, postcard view, ca. 1915.

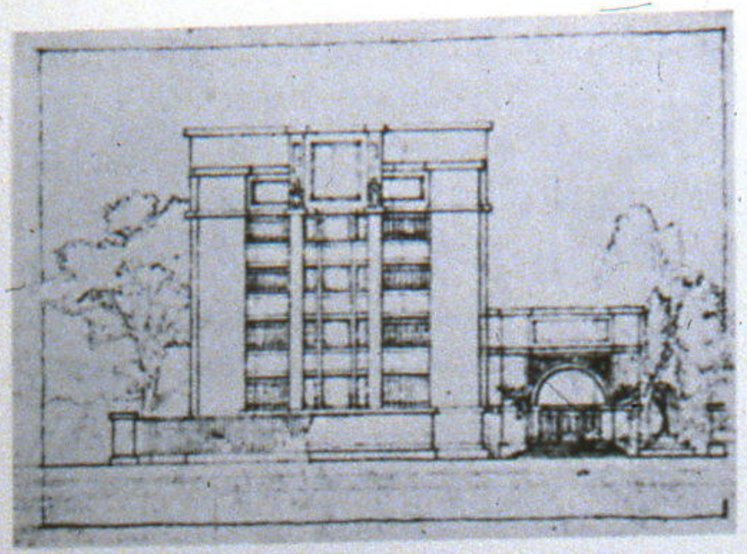
Frank Lloyd Wright, Abraham Lincoln Center, hicago, Illinois, first elevation, ca. 1899. (*Architectural eview* [Boston], 7, June 1900, p. 72)



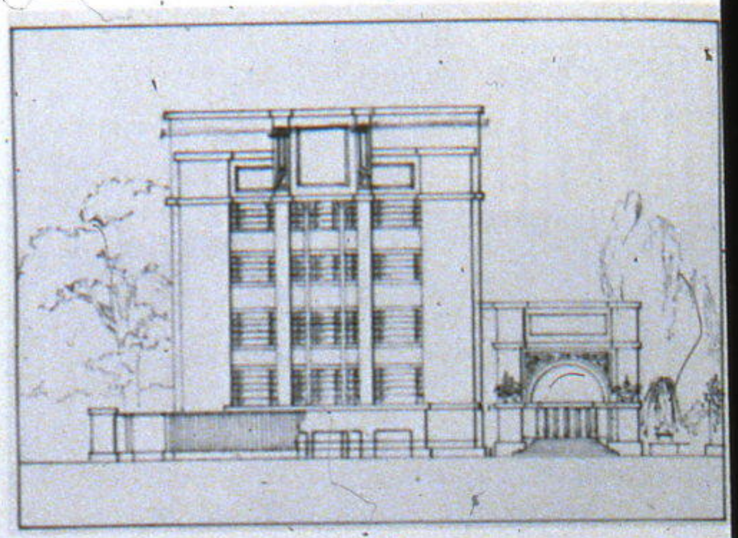
13 Louis Sullivan, Wainwright Building, Saint Louis, Missouri, 1890–91. (Historic American Buildings Survey)


Larkin Co.


DAKOTA
ELEVATOR
GOLD
MEDAL
FLOUR



9 Larkin Administration Building, Seneca Street elevation, first set of preliminary drawings, early 1903. (Grant C. Manson, *Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910: The First Golden Age*, New York, 1958, Fig. 96B)



10 Seneca Street elevation, second set of preliminary drawings, early 1903. (© The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, 1987. Courtesy the Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation)

11 Seneca Street elevation. (Courtesy The Frank Lloyd Wright Memorial Foundation)

PLATE 41. LARKIN COMPANY, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BUFFALO, NEW YORK. SKETCH OF INTERIOR

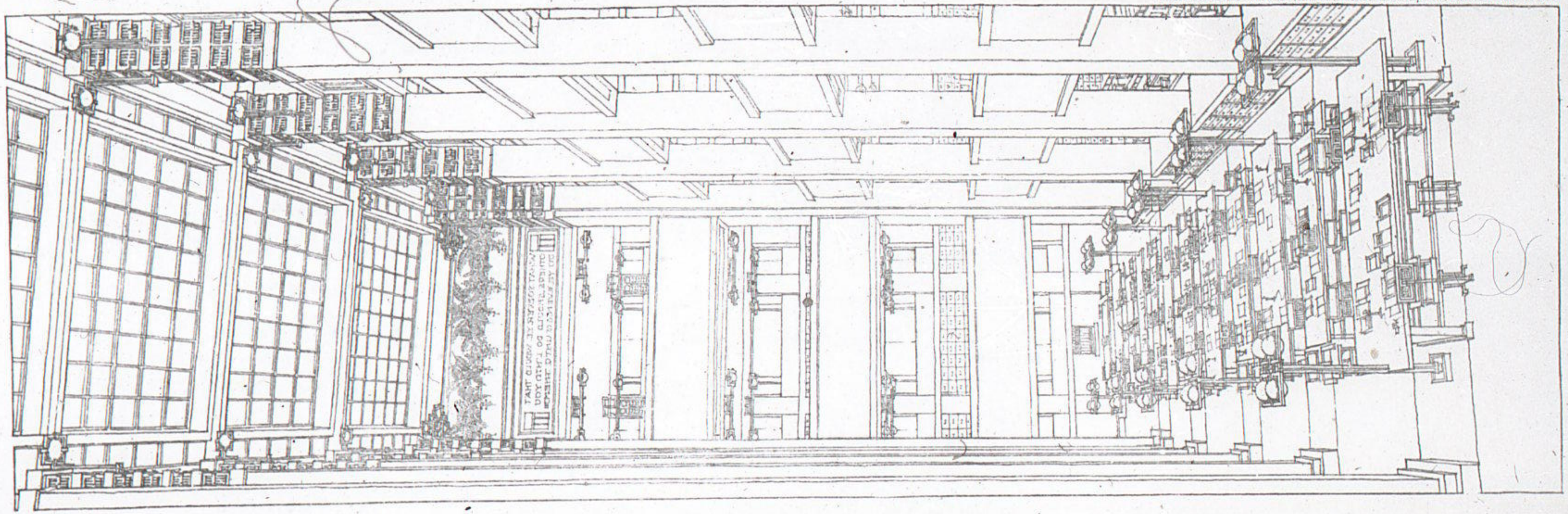
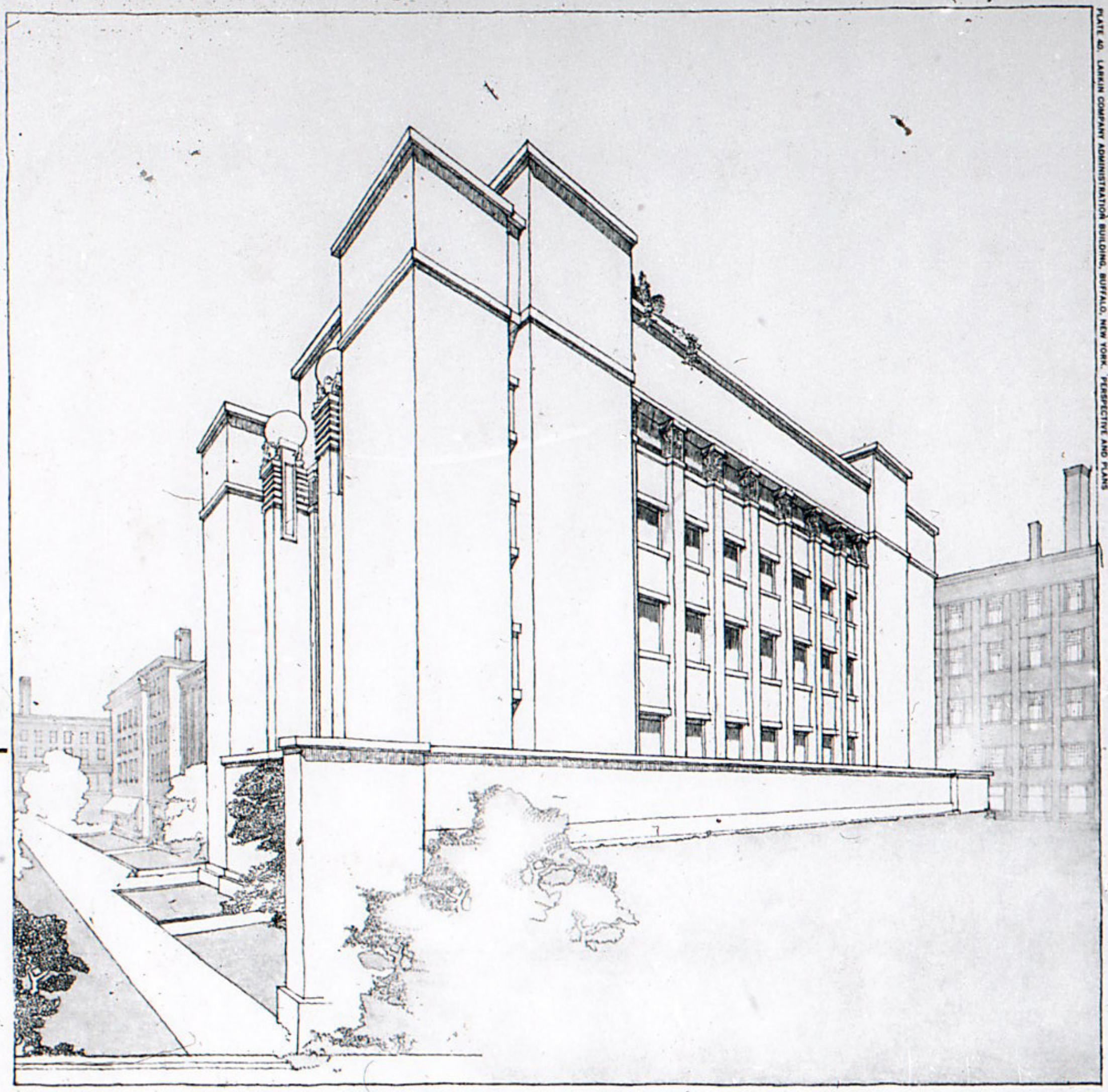
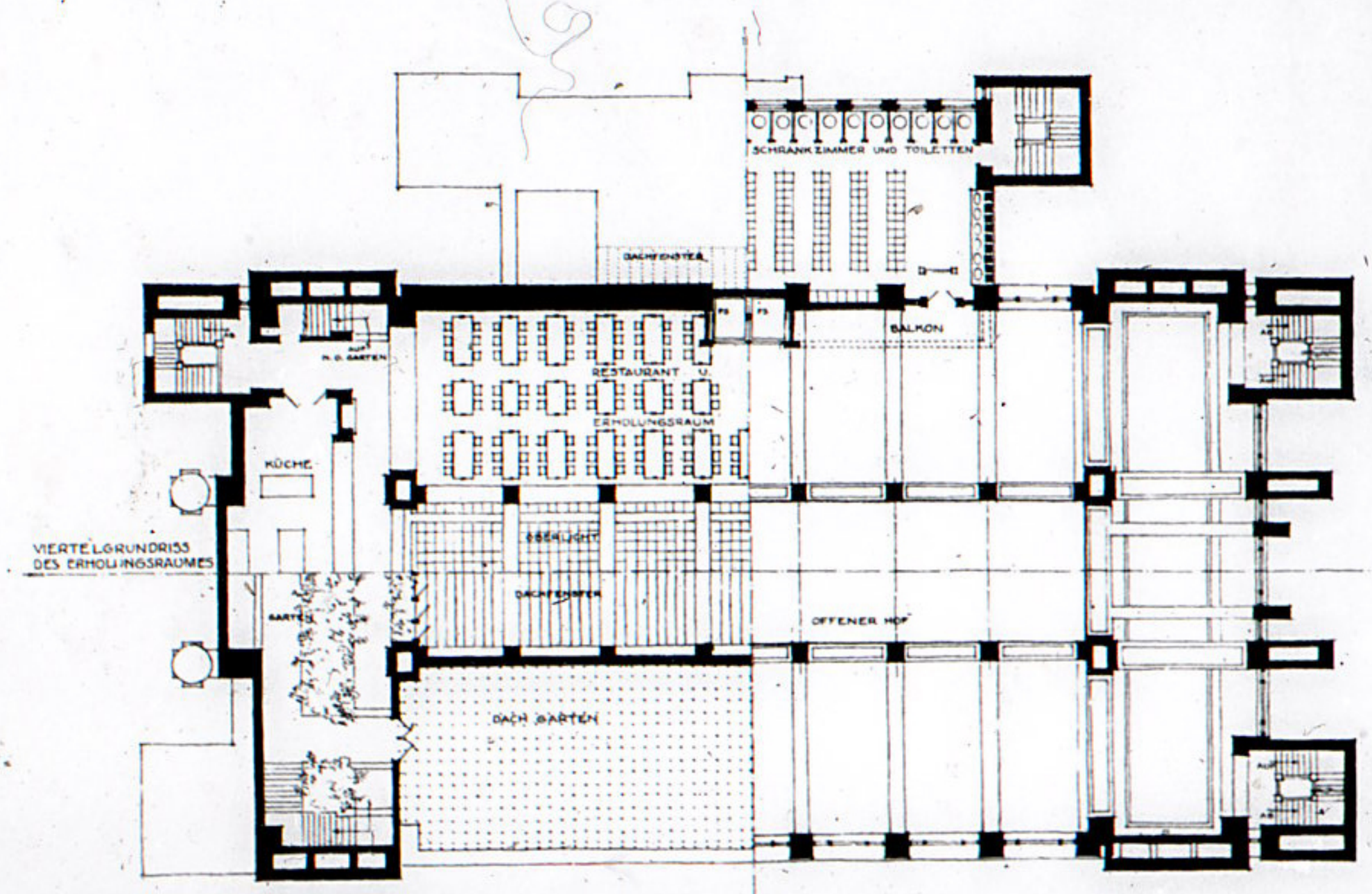
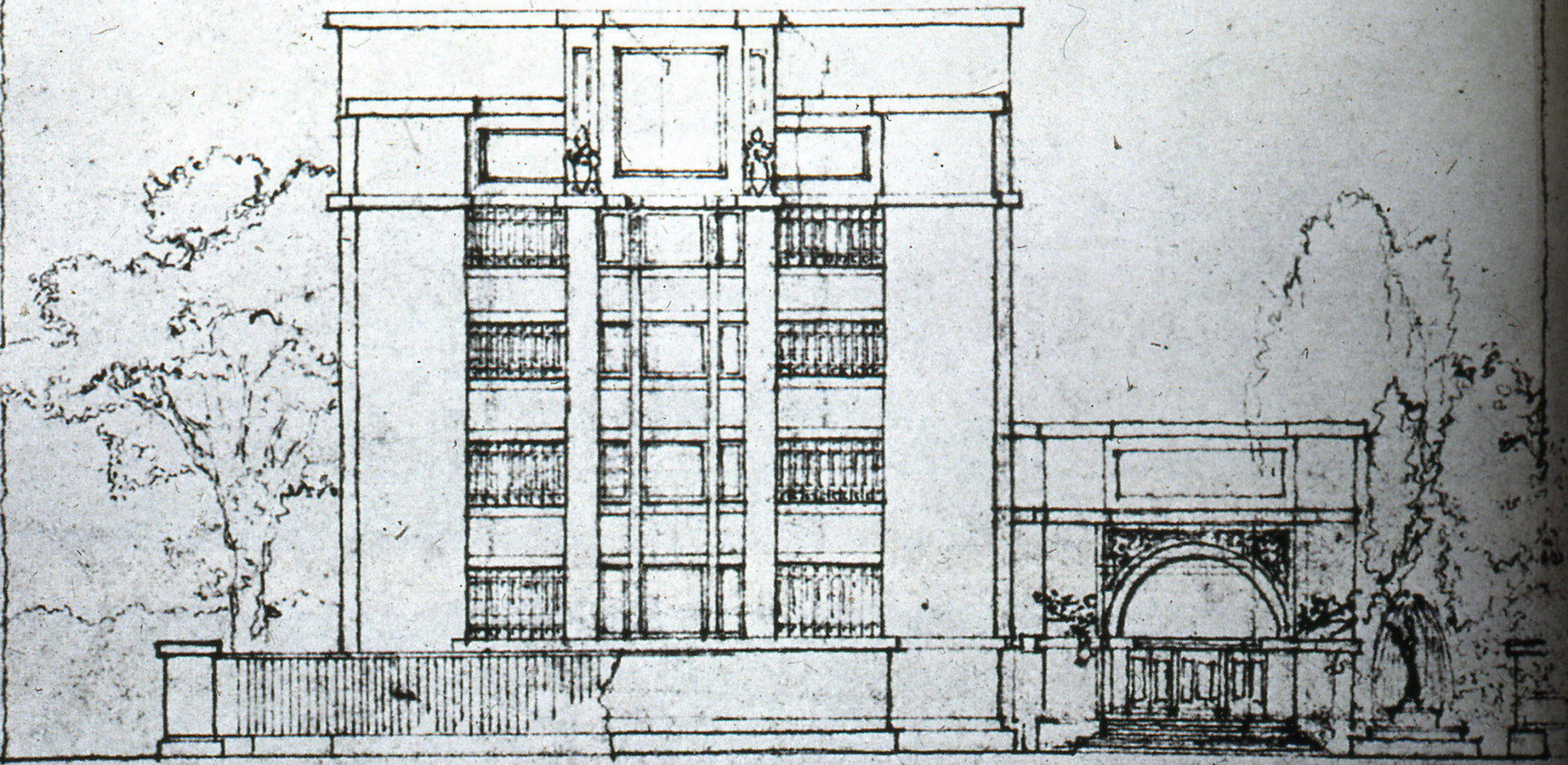


PLATE 40. LARKIN COMPANY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BUFFALO, NEW YORK. PERSPECTIVE AND PLANS





VIERTELGRUNDRISS DES DACHS UND GARTENS | HALBGRUNDRISS DES TYPISCHEN GESCHOSSES

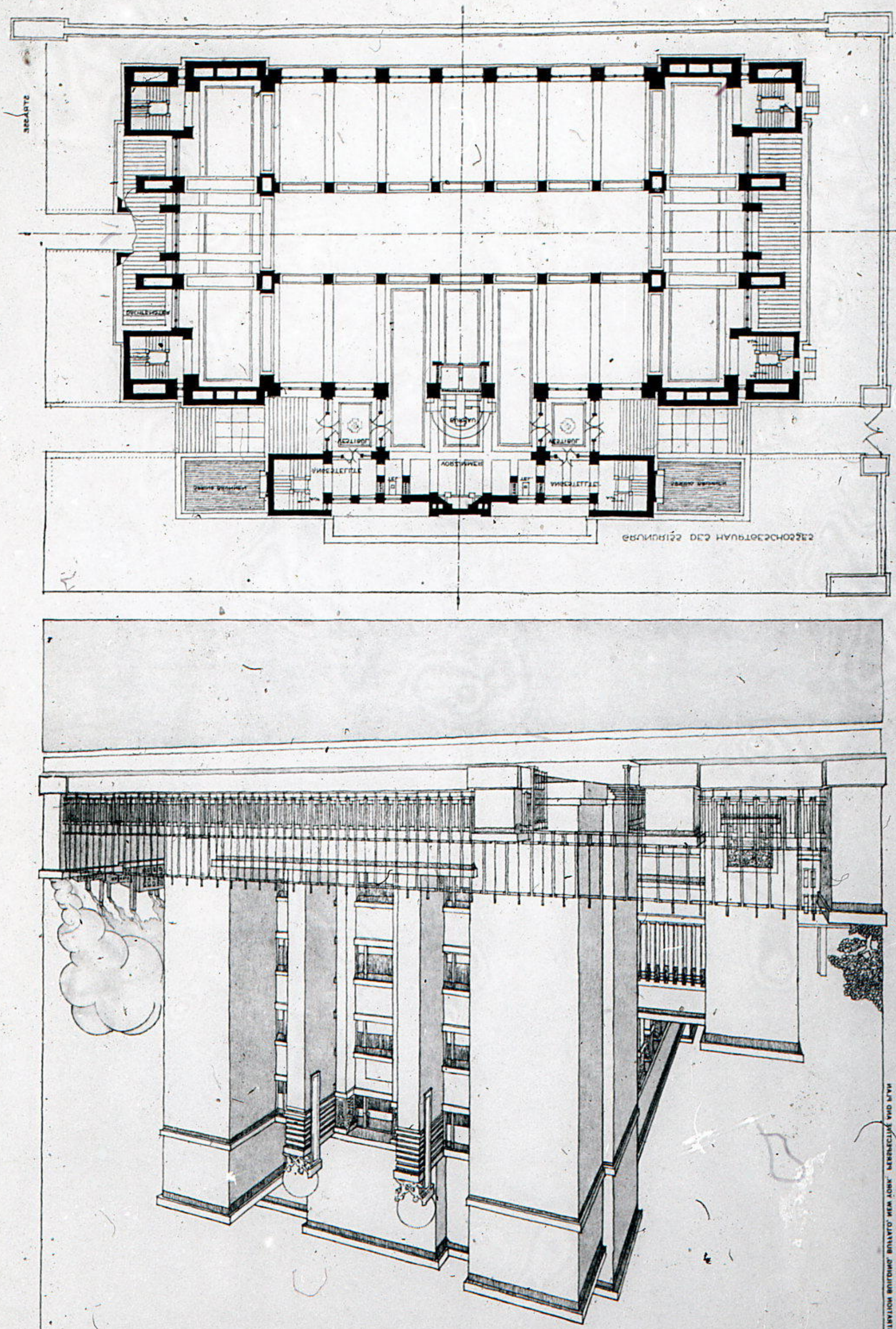


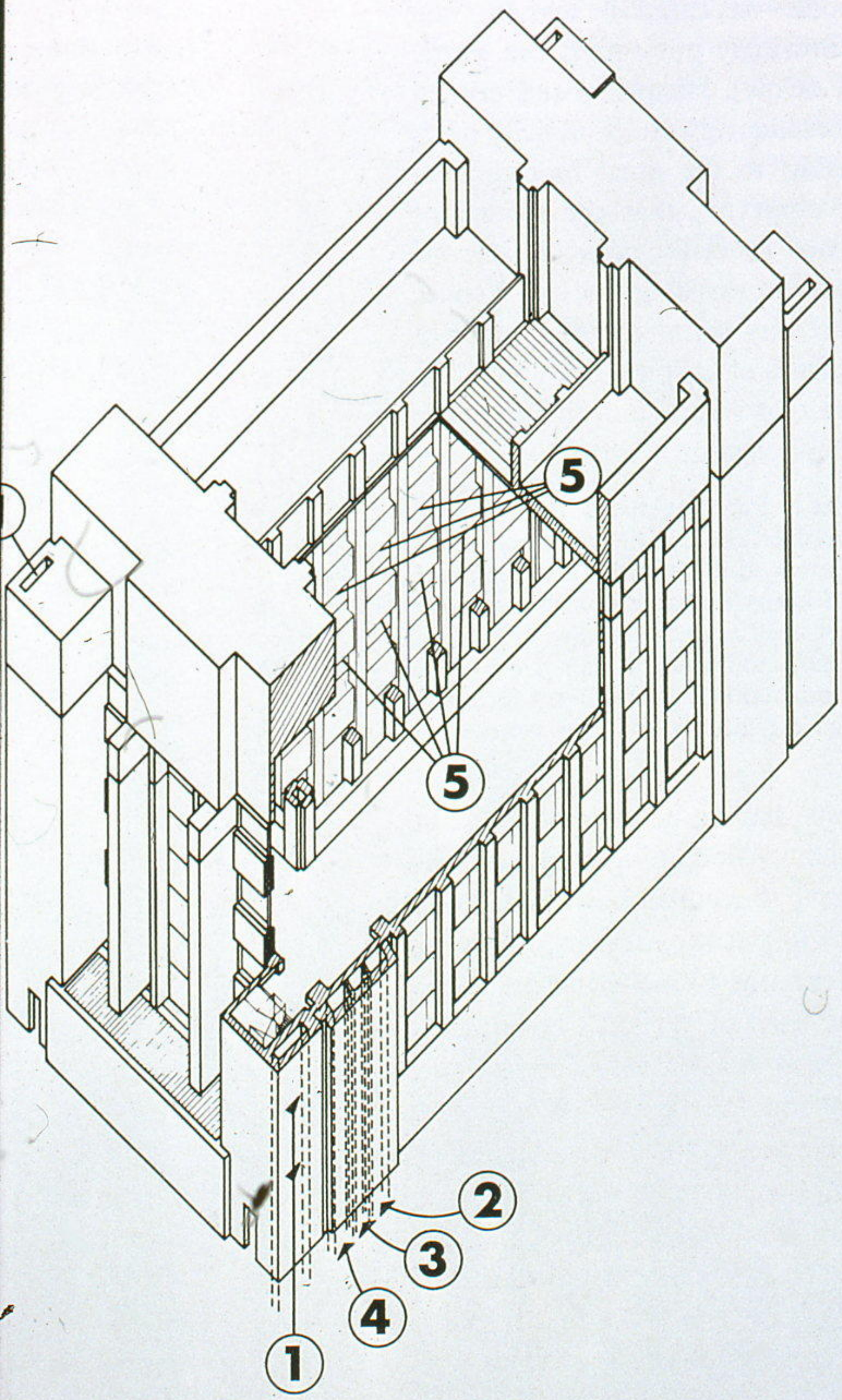
SECY CLERKS

CASHIER AND
ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

OUTLETS IN THIS
DAY SAME AS
8TH FLOOR ABOVE

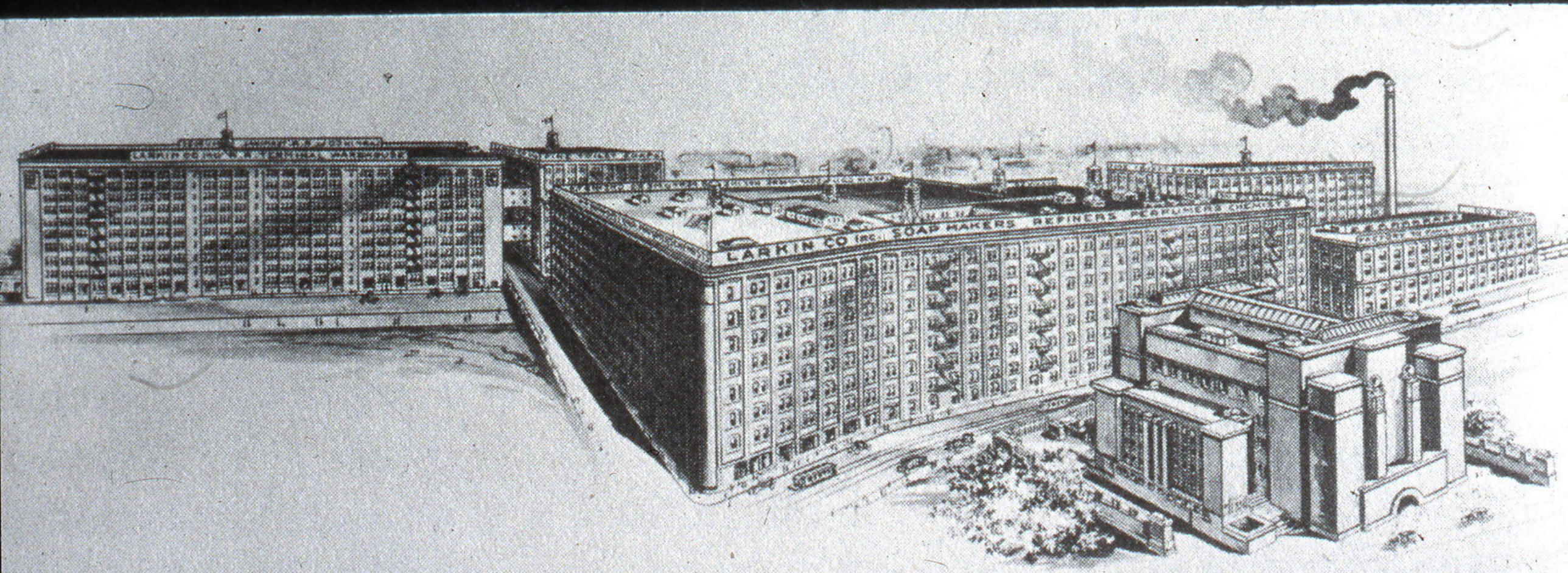
DIRECTORS ROOM

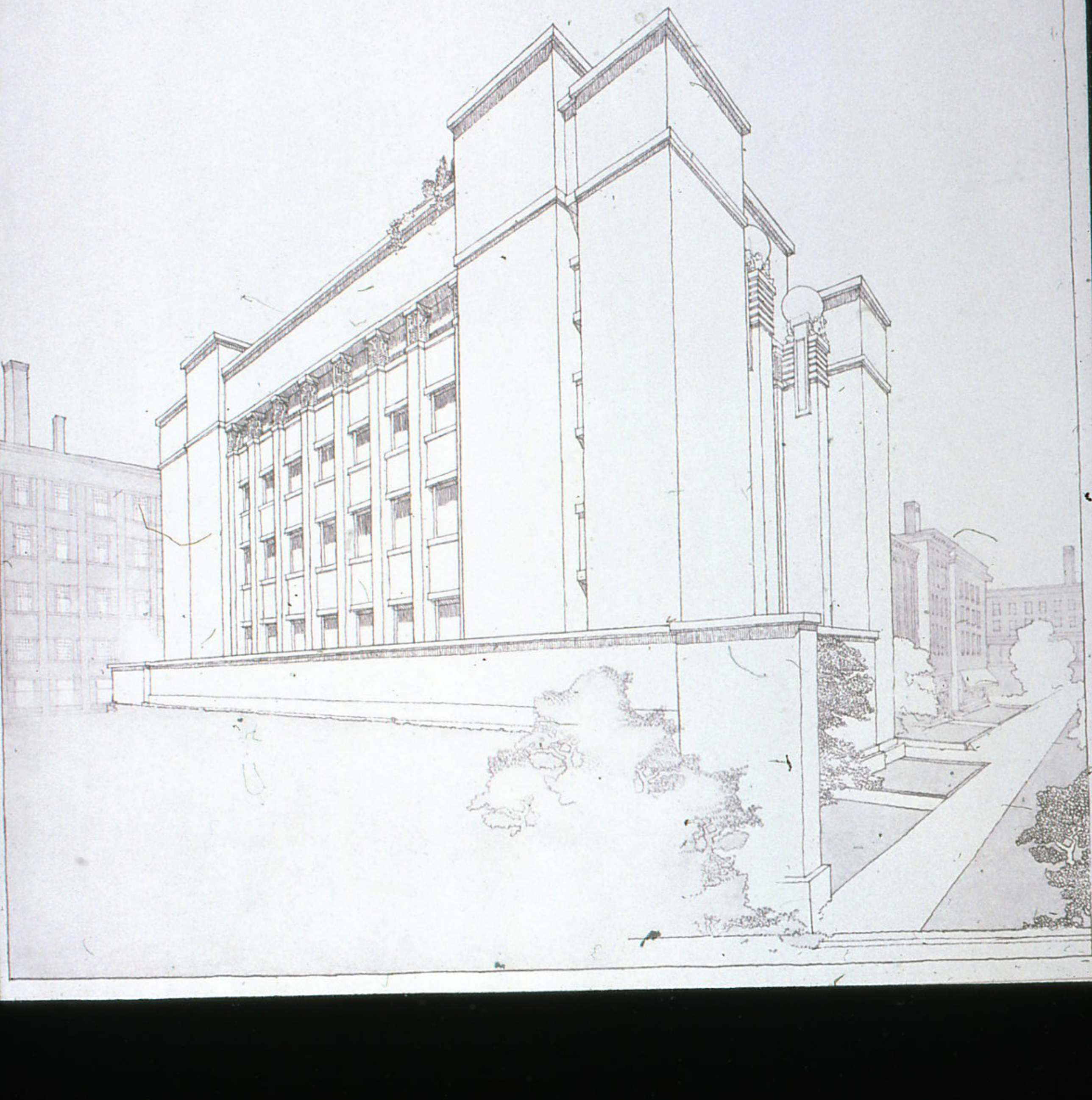

GRUNDRISS DES HAUPTGESCHOSSES
PERSPECTIVE VON NORDWESTEN

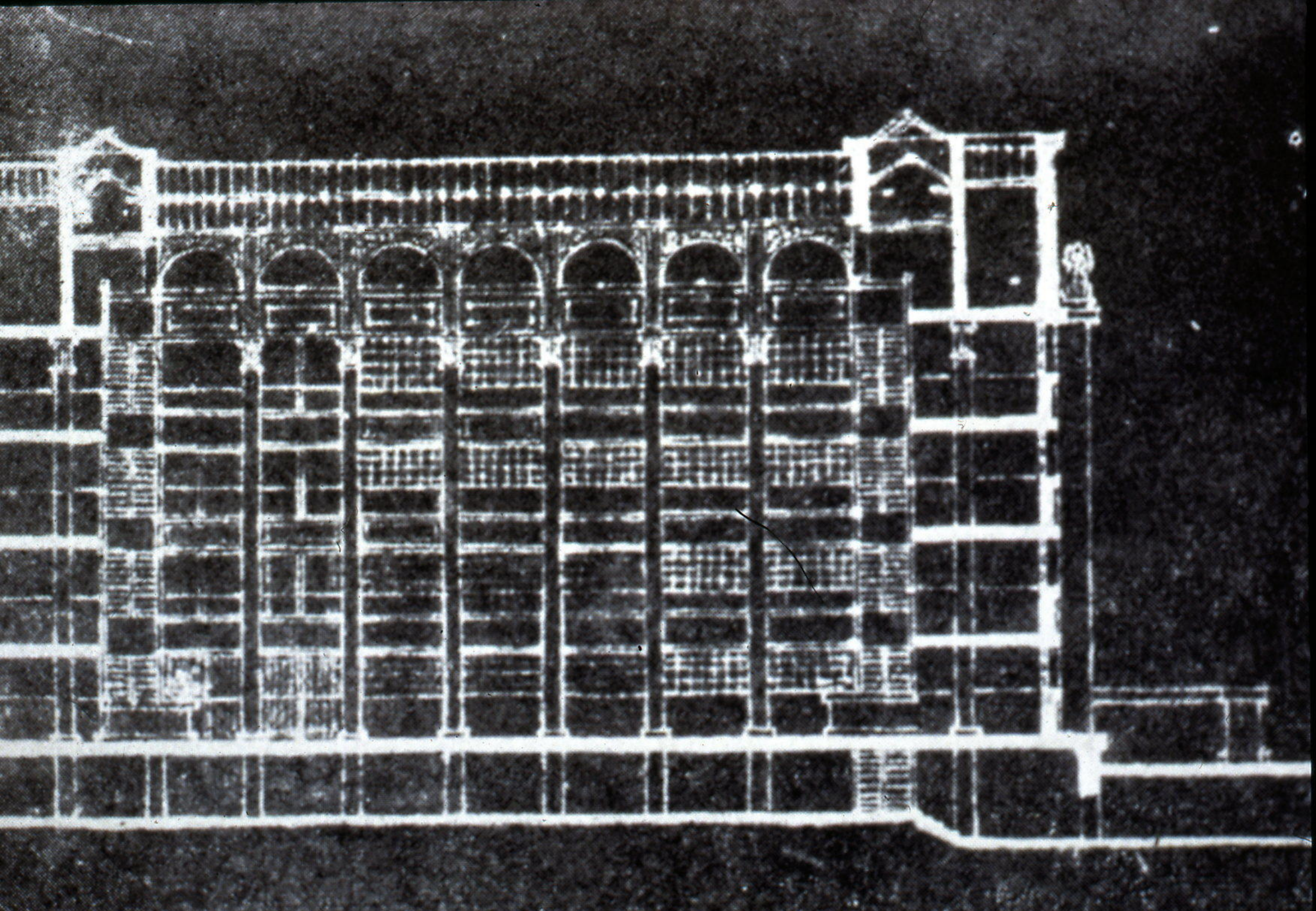


Larkin Building: cut-away drawing showing location of main air-ducts.

1. Fresh air intake
2. Tempered air distribution
3. Foul air and exhaust
4. Utilities duct
5. Tempered air outlet grilles under edge of balconies


LARKIN CO Inc.
SOAP MAKERS REFINERS





TOILET

EMERGENCY ROOM

EMERGENCY ROOM

REST-ROOM

ELEVATOR LANDING

E

OPEN

TOILET

EMERGENCY ROOM

EMERGENCY ROOM

ATTE ROOM

OPEN

AIR SUPPLY

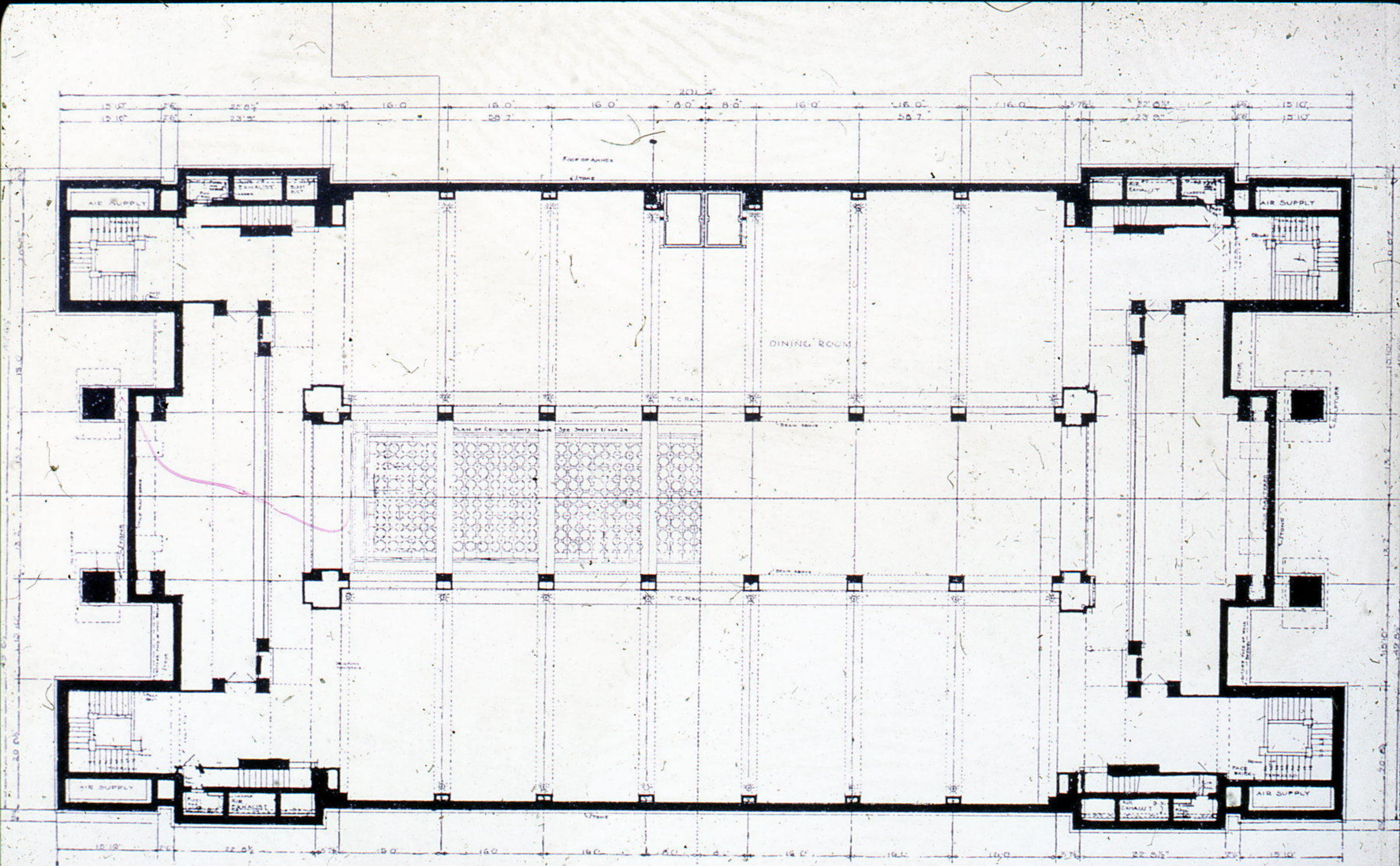
AIR EXHAUST

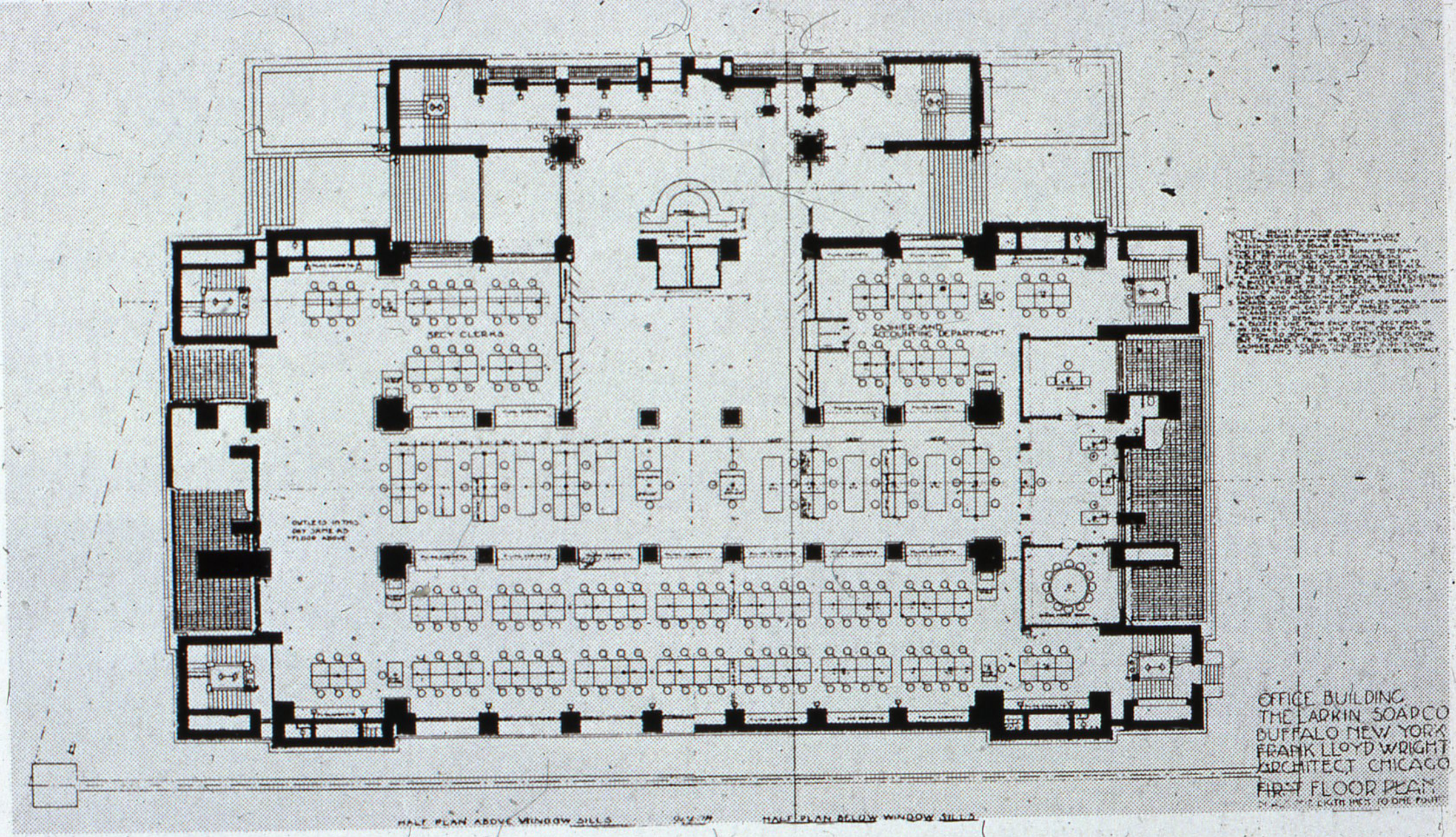
AIR SUPPLY

HALF PLAN BELOW WINDOW
SILLS OF WOMENS TOILET

ELEVATOR LANDING

HALF PLAN ABOVE WINDOW
SILLS OF WOMENS TOILET


AIR SUPPLY
EXHAUST
DINING ROOM
AIR SUPPLY
AIR SUPPLY
EXHAUST
AIR SUPPLY



791 *Larkin Building and plan*